VIZ Signature

GOLGO 13

PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT

FLAGBURNER

13

CREATED BY **TAKAO SAITO**

GOLGO 13

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GOLGO 13
Volume 13: FLAGBURNER

VIZ Signature Edition

CREATED BY TAKAO SAITO

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RATED M FOR MATURE

PARENTAL ADVISORY
GOLGO 13 is rated M and is recommended for mature readers.
It contains violence and sexual themes.
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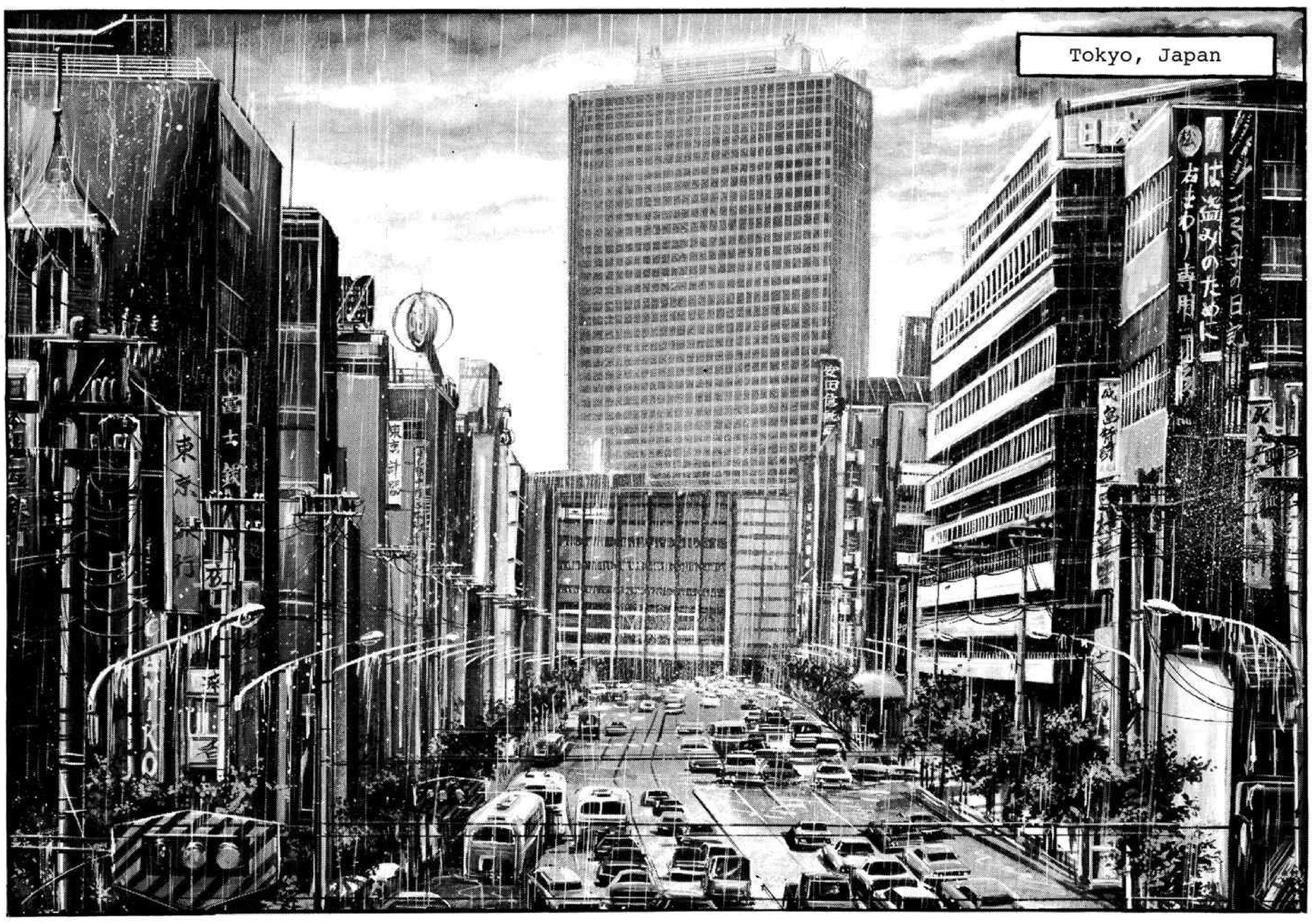
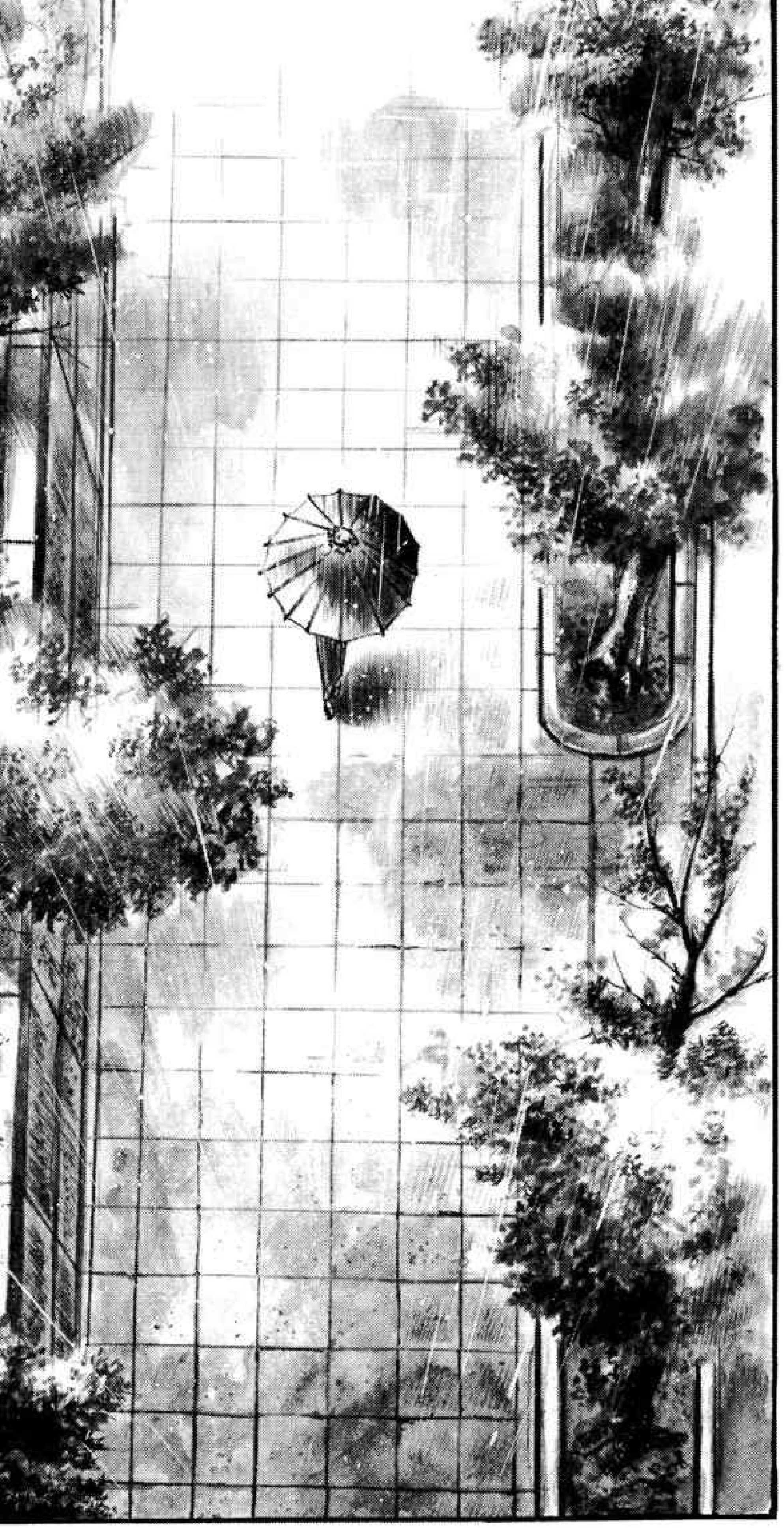
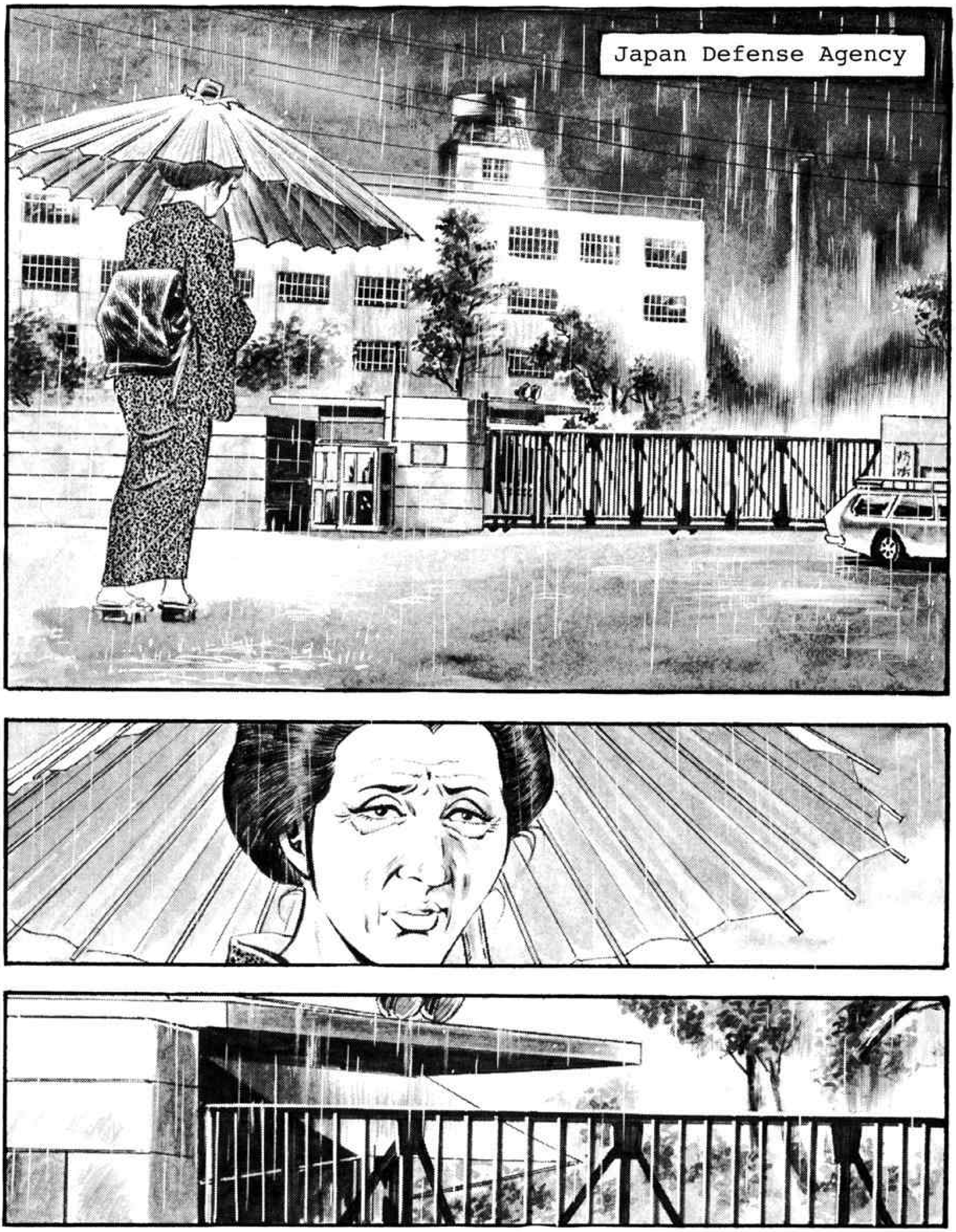


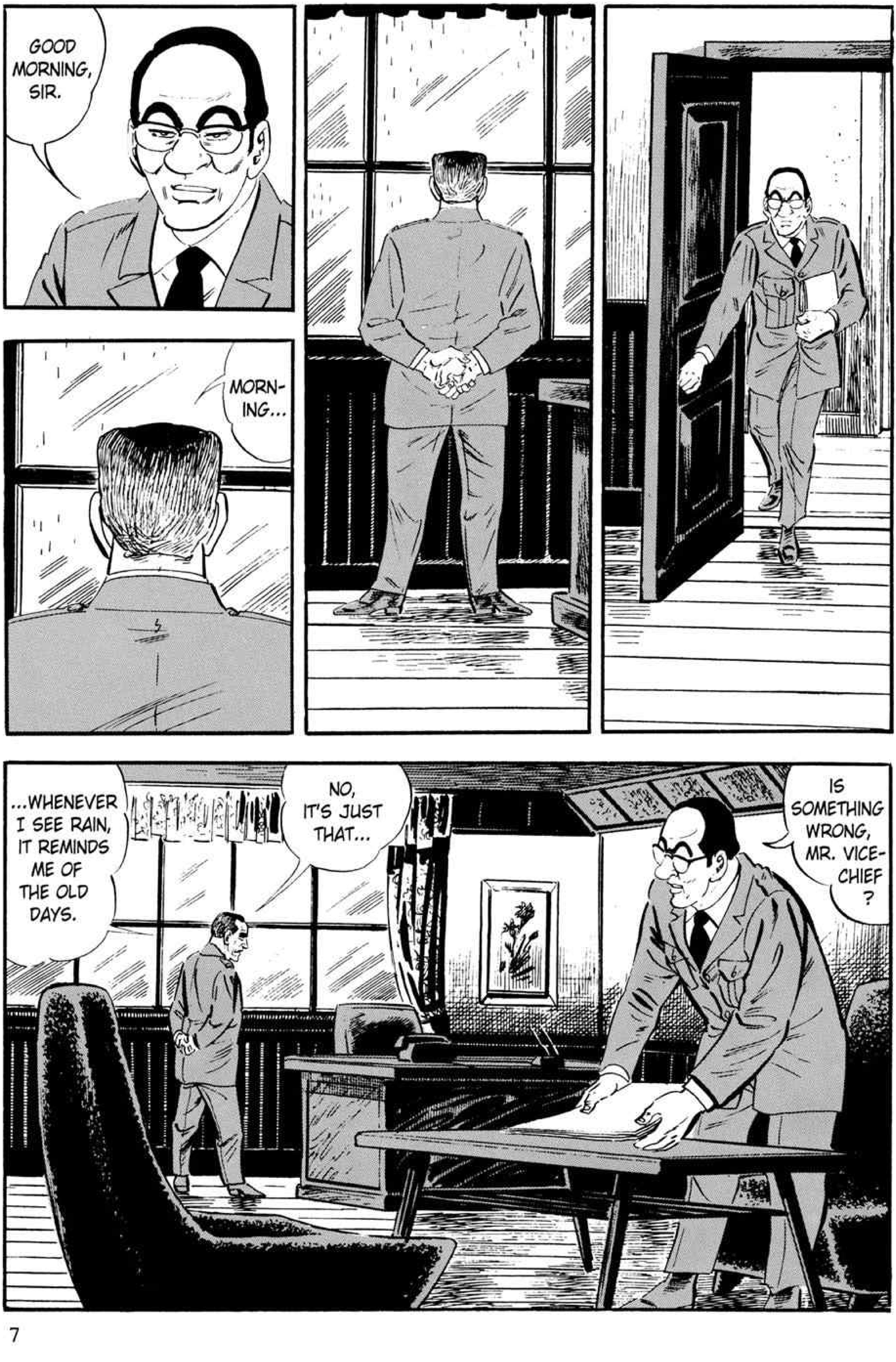
Tokyo, Japan

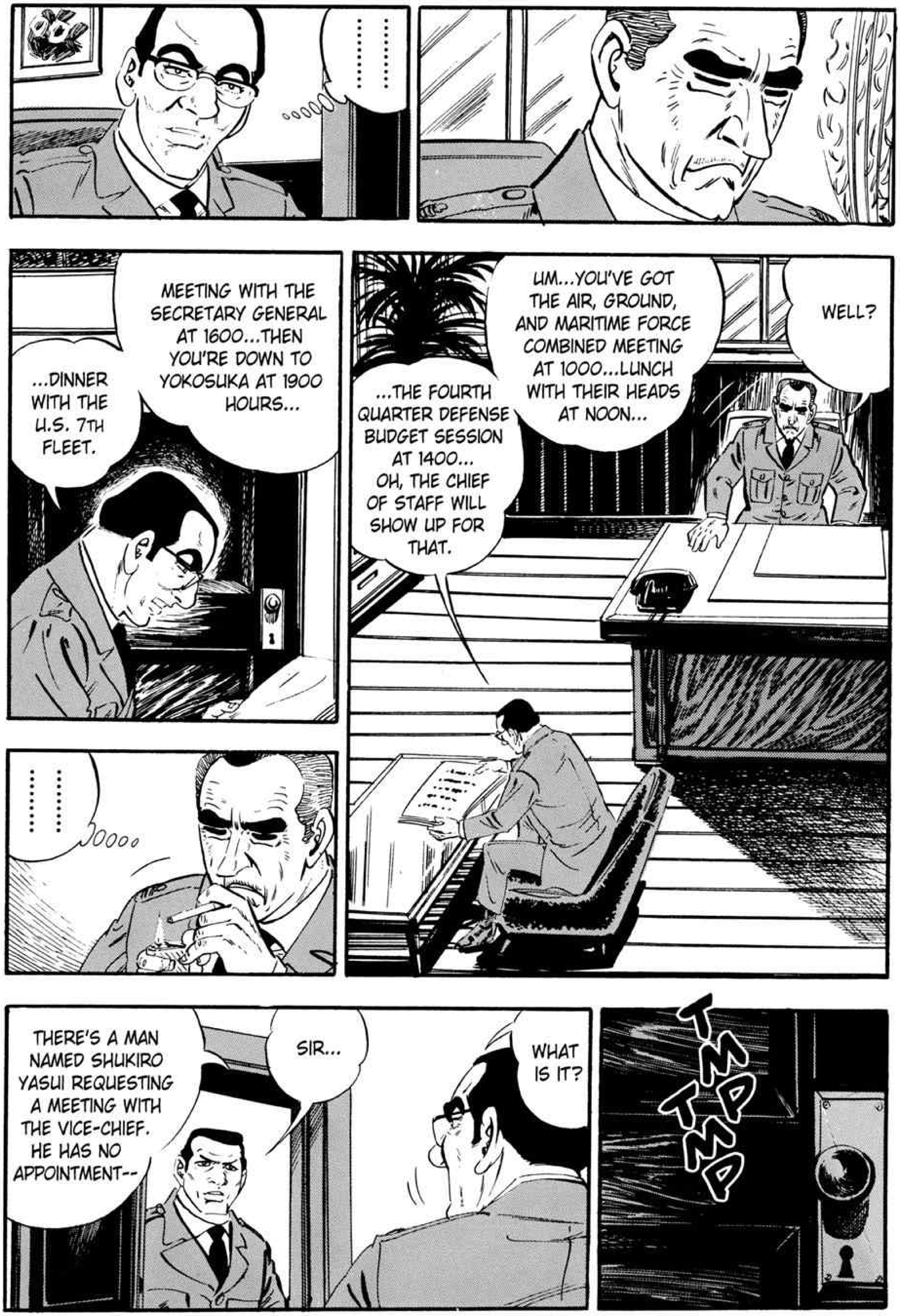


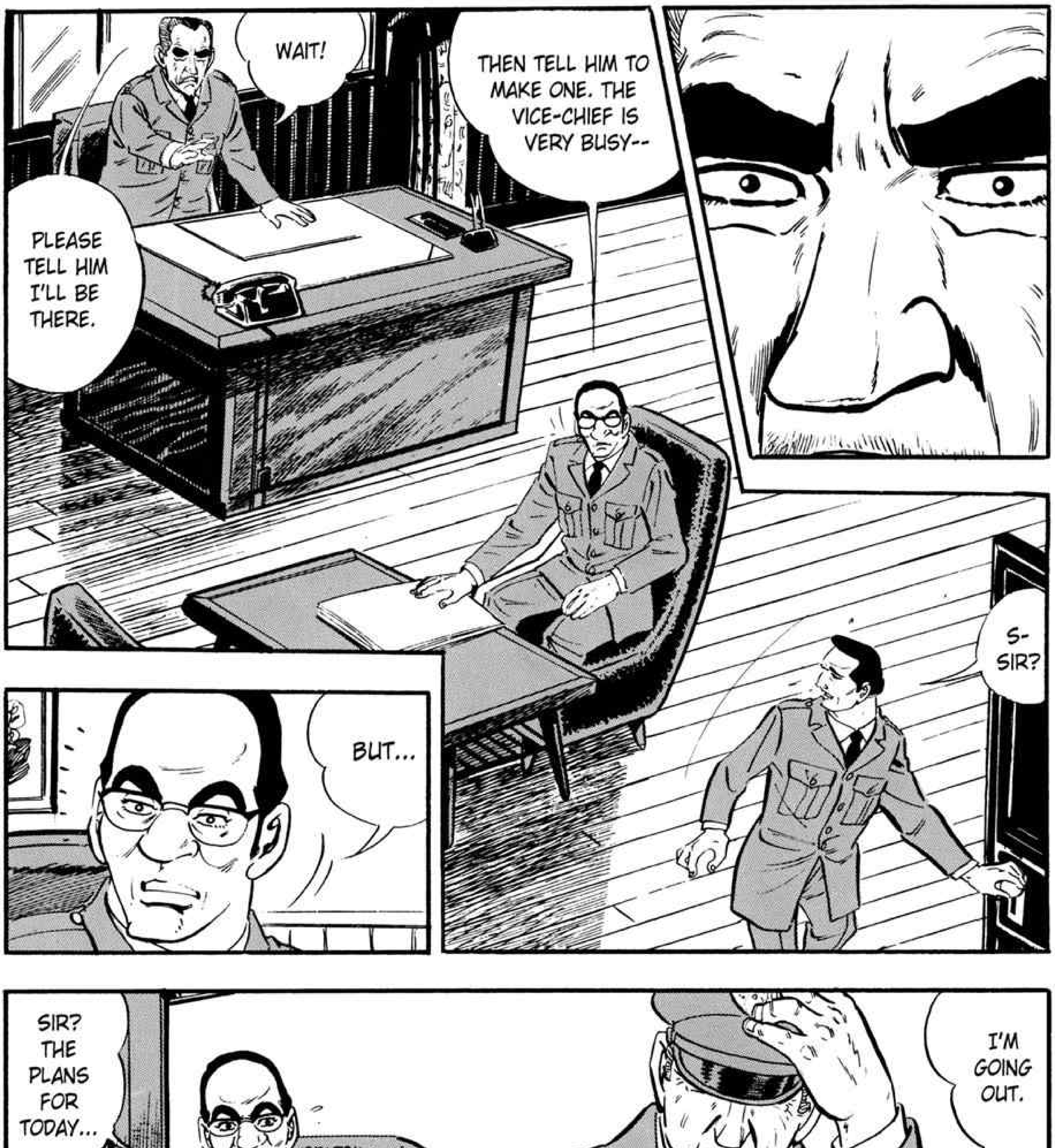
THE SERIZAWA FAMILY MURDERS

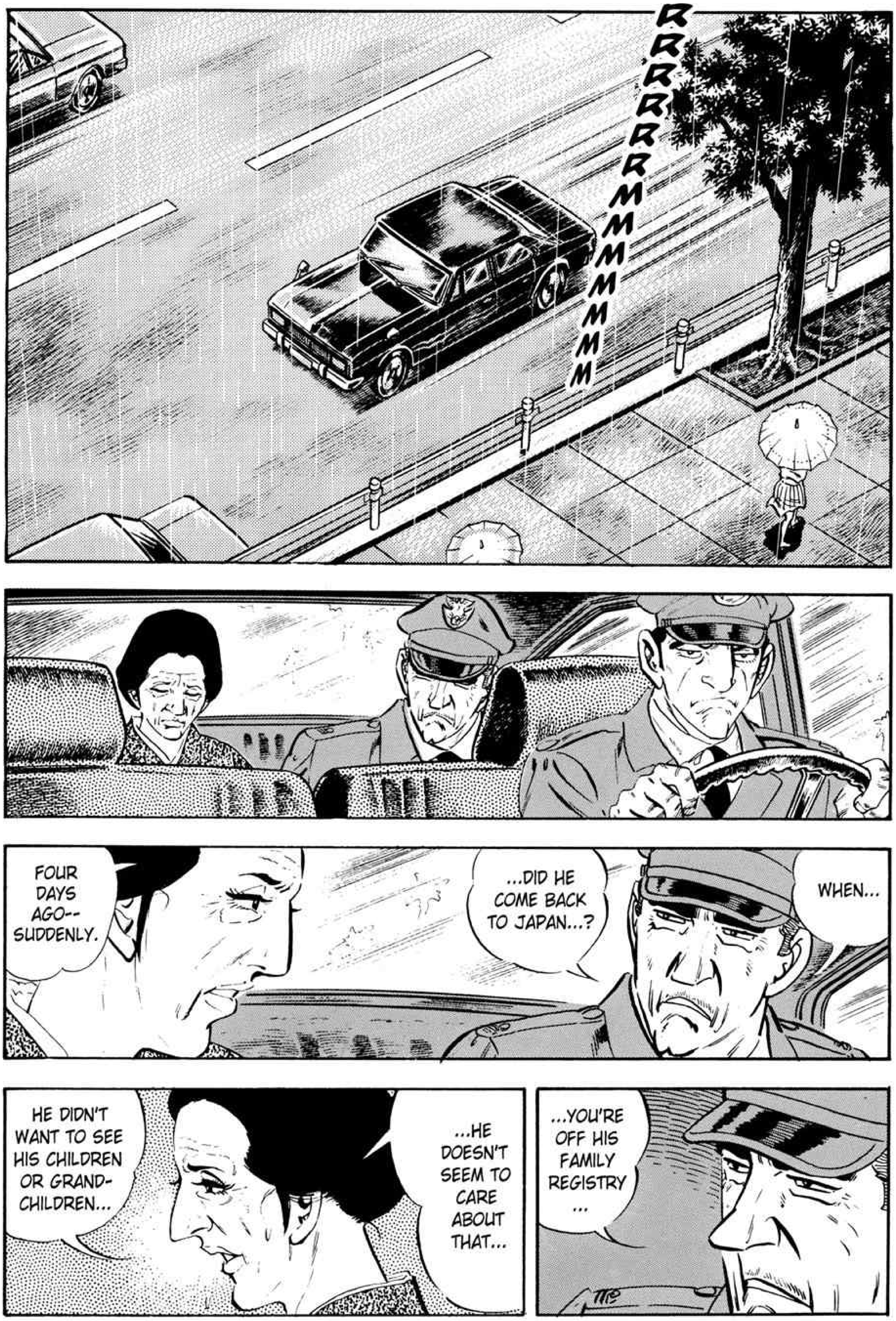
PART 1 SHUKIRO YASUI

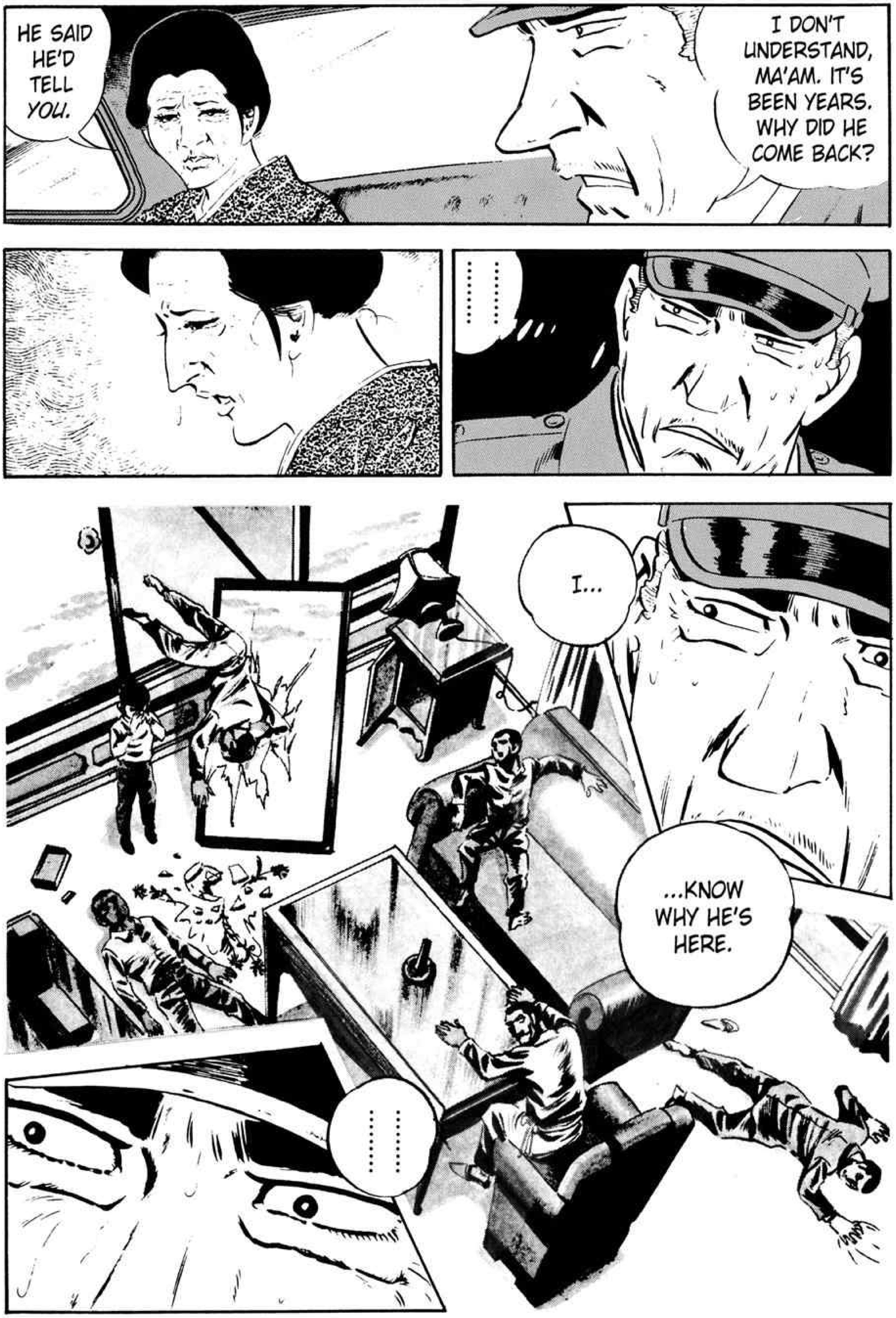

Japan Defense Agency

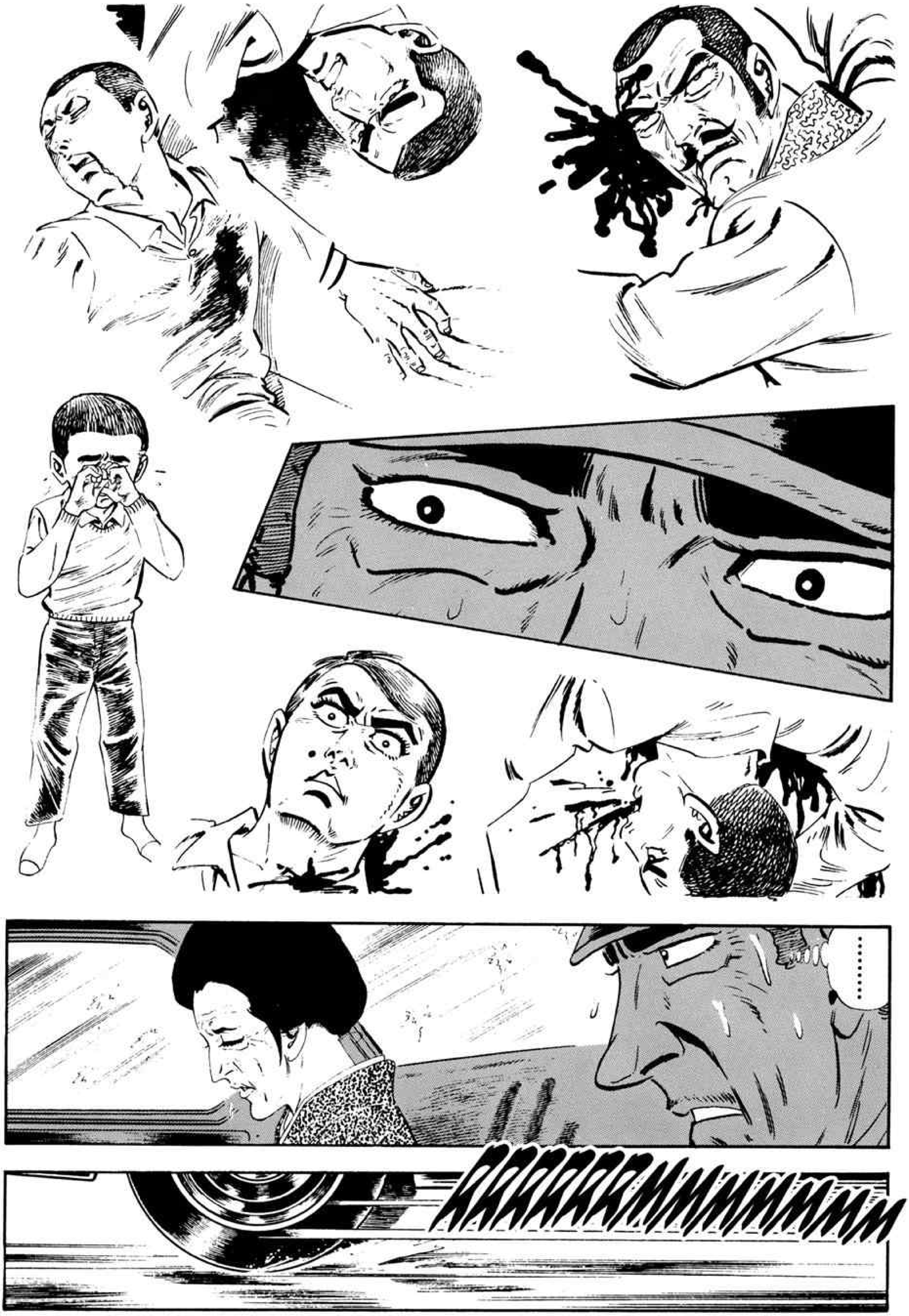

GOOD MORNING, SIR.
MORNING...
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MR. VICE-CHIEF?
NO, IT'S JUST THAT...
...WHENEVER I SEE RAIN, IT REMINDS ME OF THE OLD DAYS.

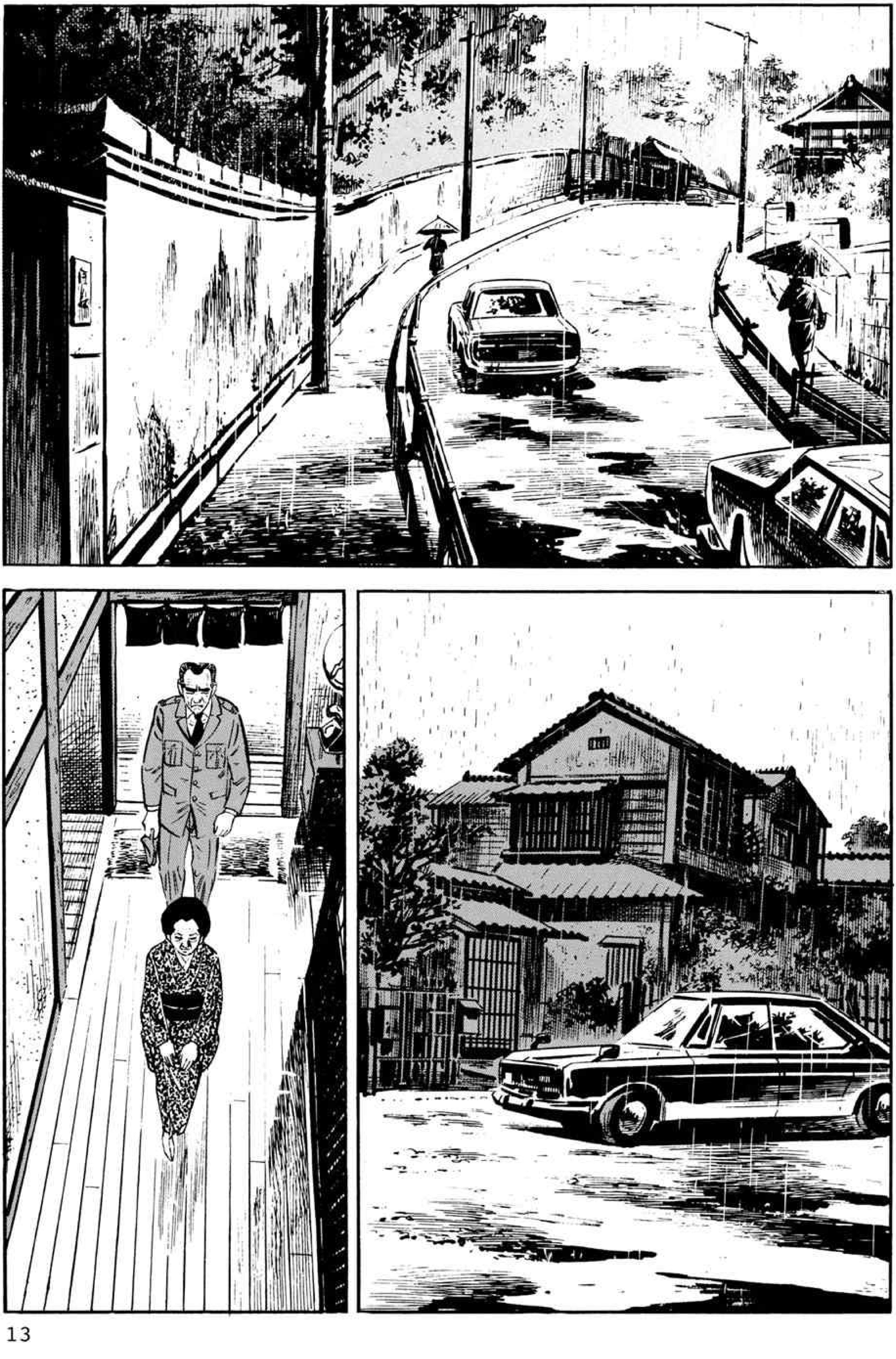

......
WELL?
UM...YOU'VE GOT THE AIR, GROUND, AND MARITIME FORCE COMBINED MEETING AT 1000...LUNCH WITH THEIR HEADS AT NOON...
...THE FOURTH QUARTER DEFENSE BUDGET SESSION AT 1400... OH, THE CHIEF OF STAFF WILL SHOW UP FOR THAT.
MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL AT 1600...THEN YOU'RE DOWN TO YOKOSUKA AT 1900 HOURS...
...DINNER WITH THE U.S. 7TH FLEET.
......
TMP TMP
WHAT IS IT?
SIR...
THERE'S A MAN NAMED SHUKIRO YASUI REQUESTING A MEETING WITH THE VICE-CHIEF. HE HAS NO APPOINTMENT--

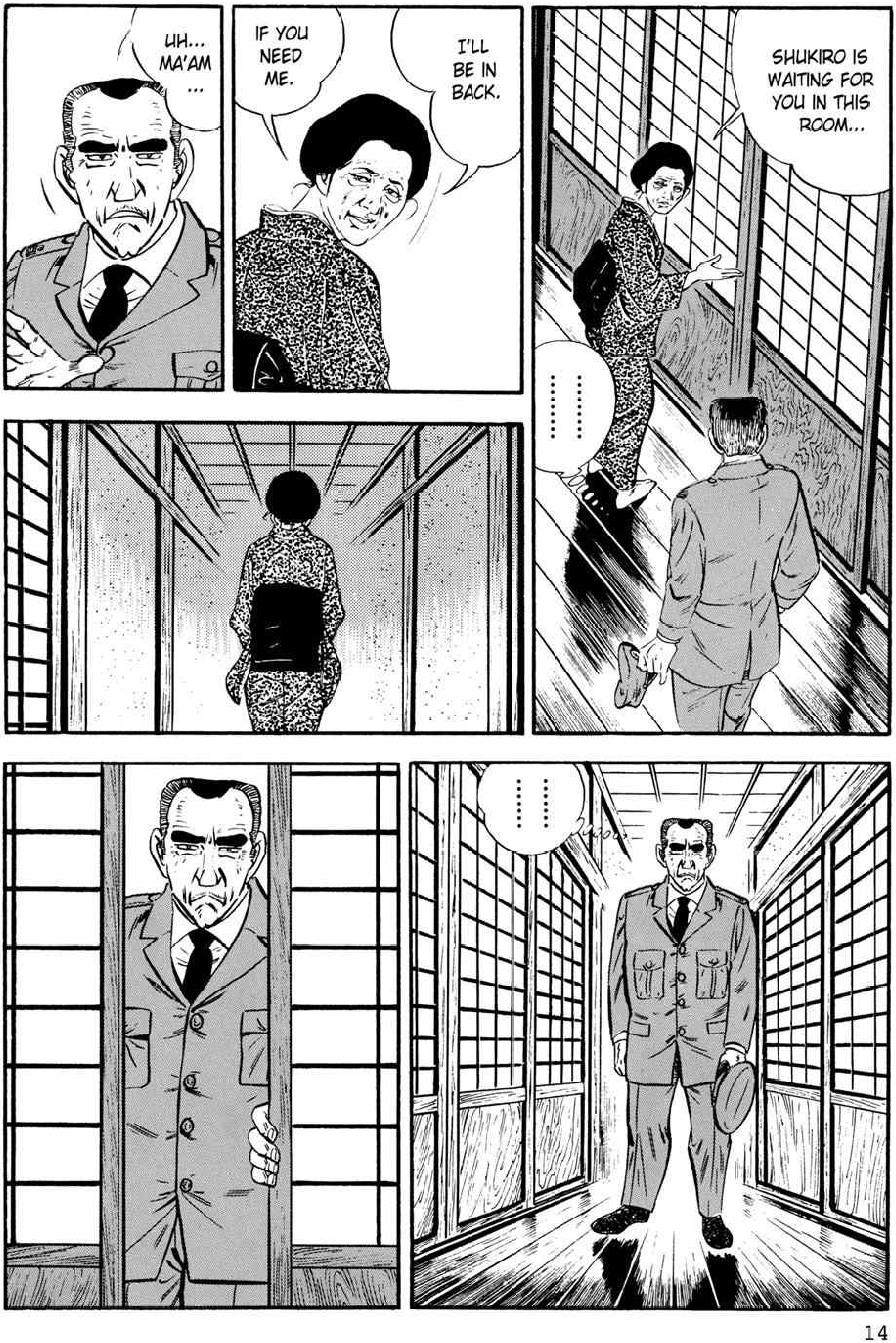

THEN TELL HIM TO MAKE ONE. THE VICE-CHIEF IS VERY BUSY--
WAIT!
PLEASE TELL HIM I'LL BE THERE.
S-SIR?
BUT...
I'M GOING OUT.
SIR? THE PLANS FOR TODAY...
CANCEL THEM ALL.

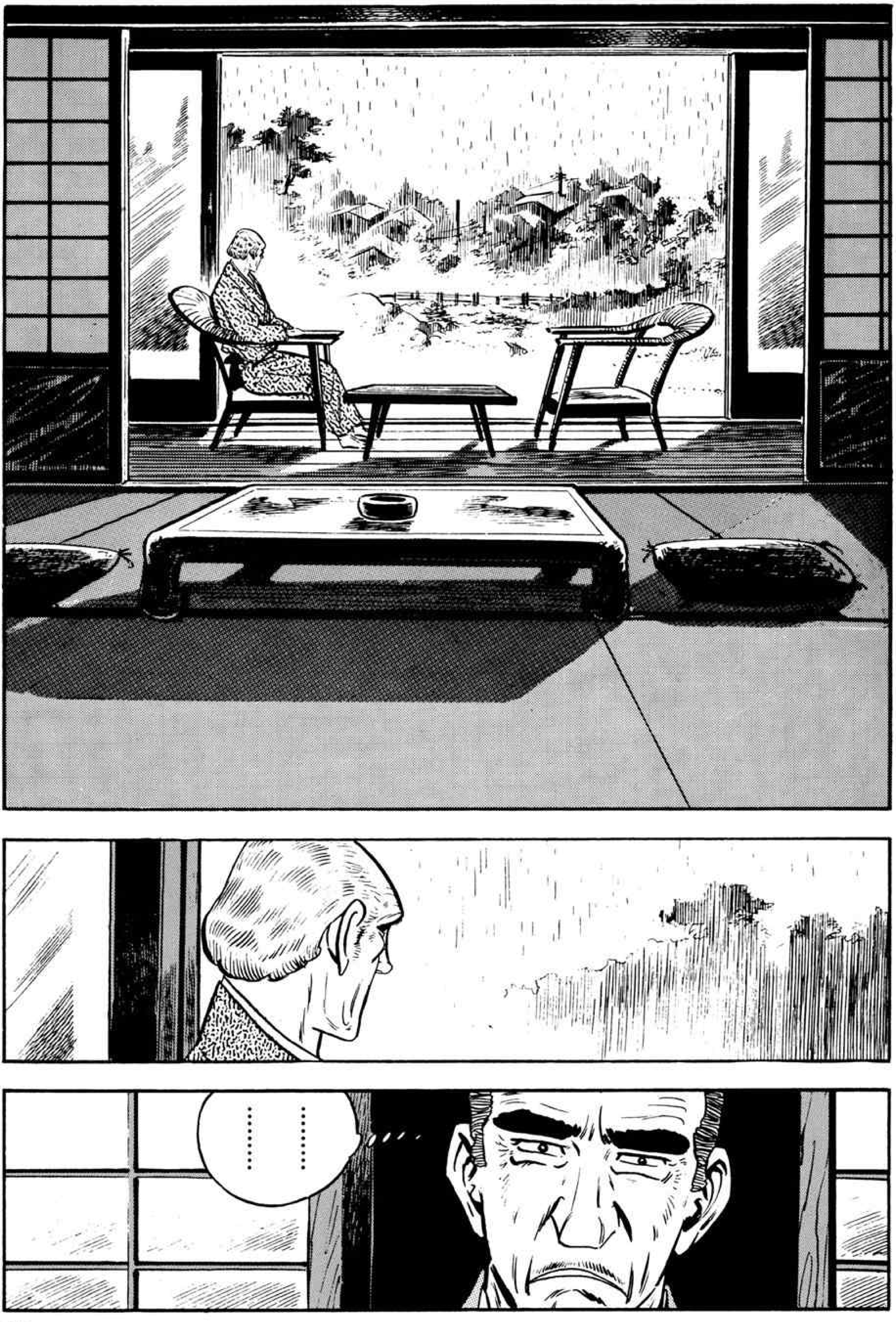

RRRRRRMMMMMMM
WHEN...
...DID HE COME BACK TO JAPAN...?
FOUR DAYS AGO--SUDDENLY.
...YOU'RE OFF HIS FAMILY REGISTRY...
...HE DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE ABOUT THAT...
HE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE HIS CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN...

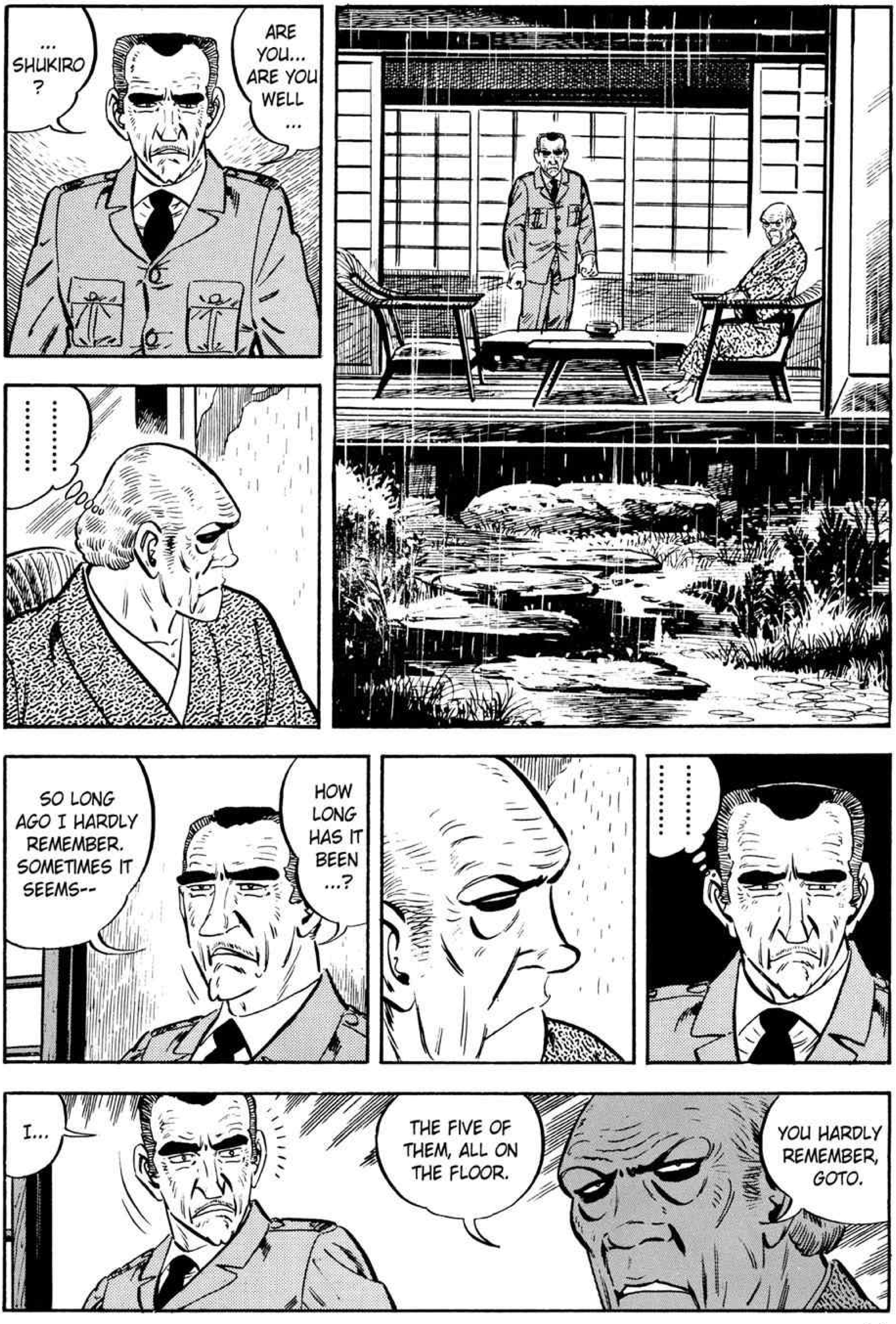

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, MA'AM. IT'S BEEN YEARS. WHY DID HE COME BACK?
HE SAID HE'D TELL *YOU*.
......
I...
...KNOW WHY HE'S HERE.
......

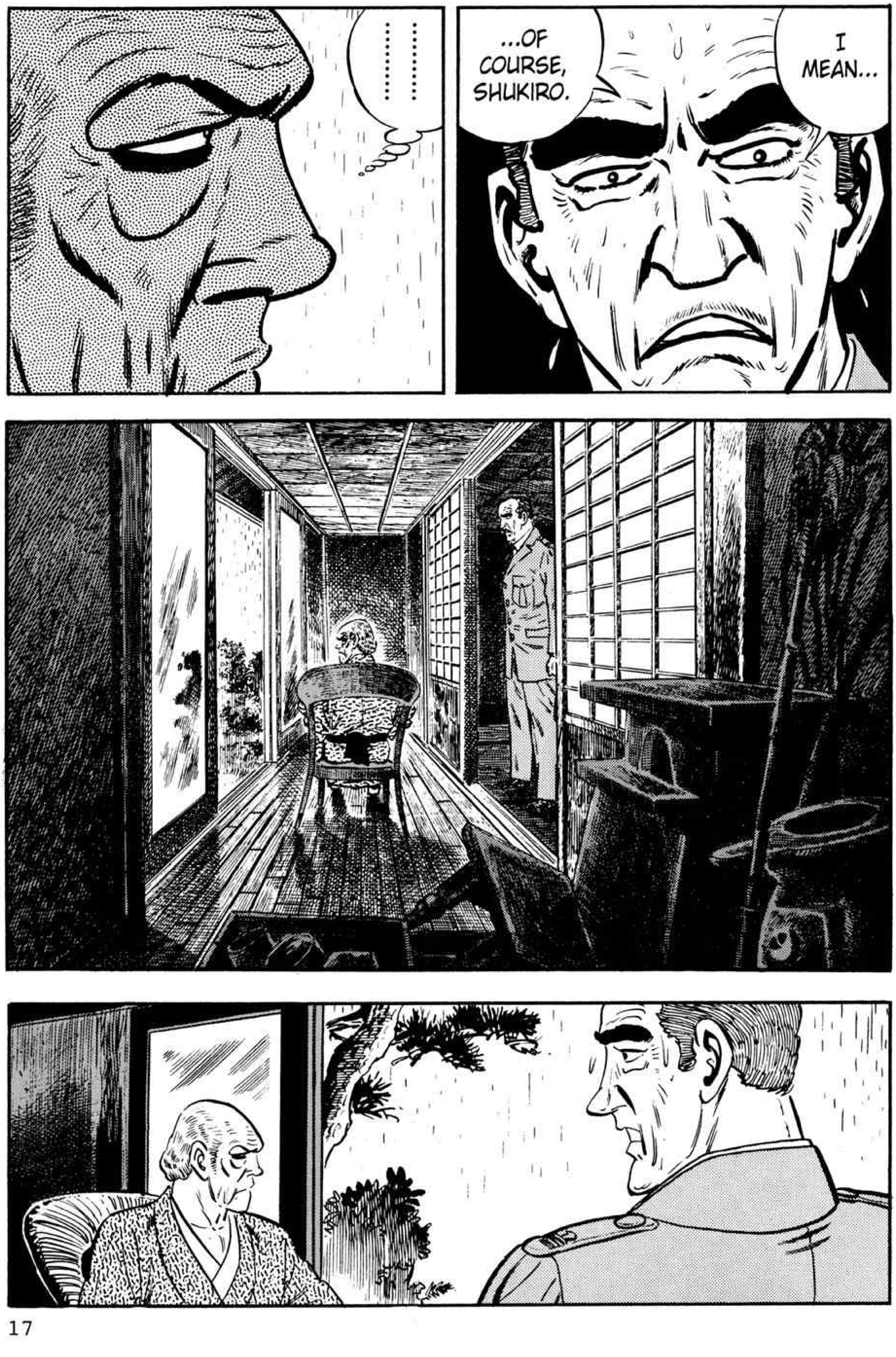

……
RRRRRRMMMMMMMMM

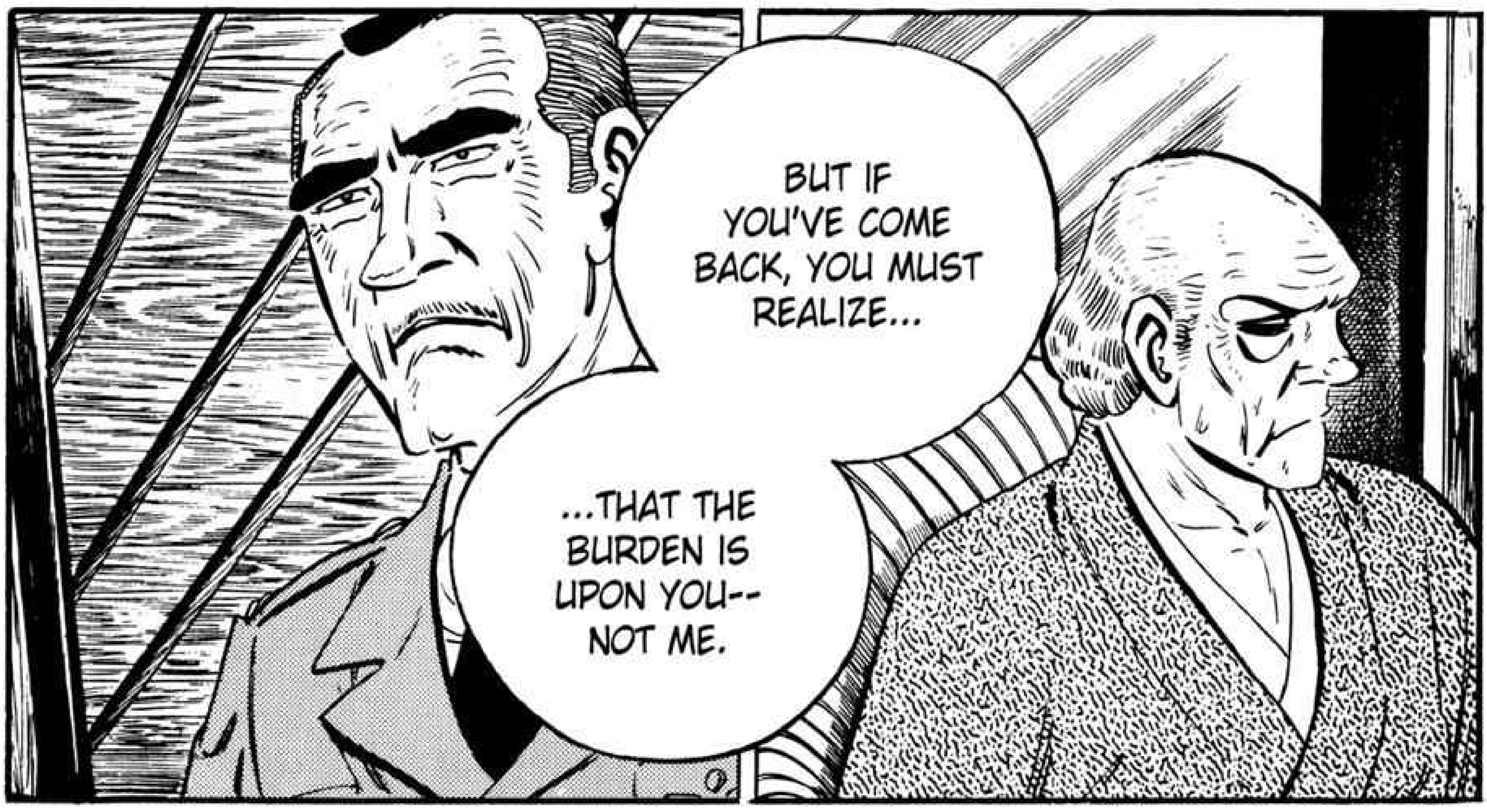



SHUKIRO IS WAITING FOR YOU IN THIS ROOM...
......
I'LL BE IN BACK.
IF YOU NEED ME.
UH... MA'AM ...
......

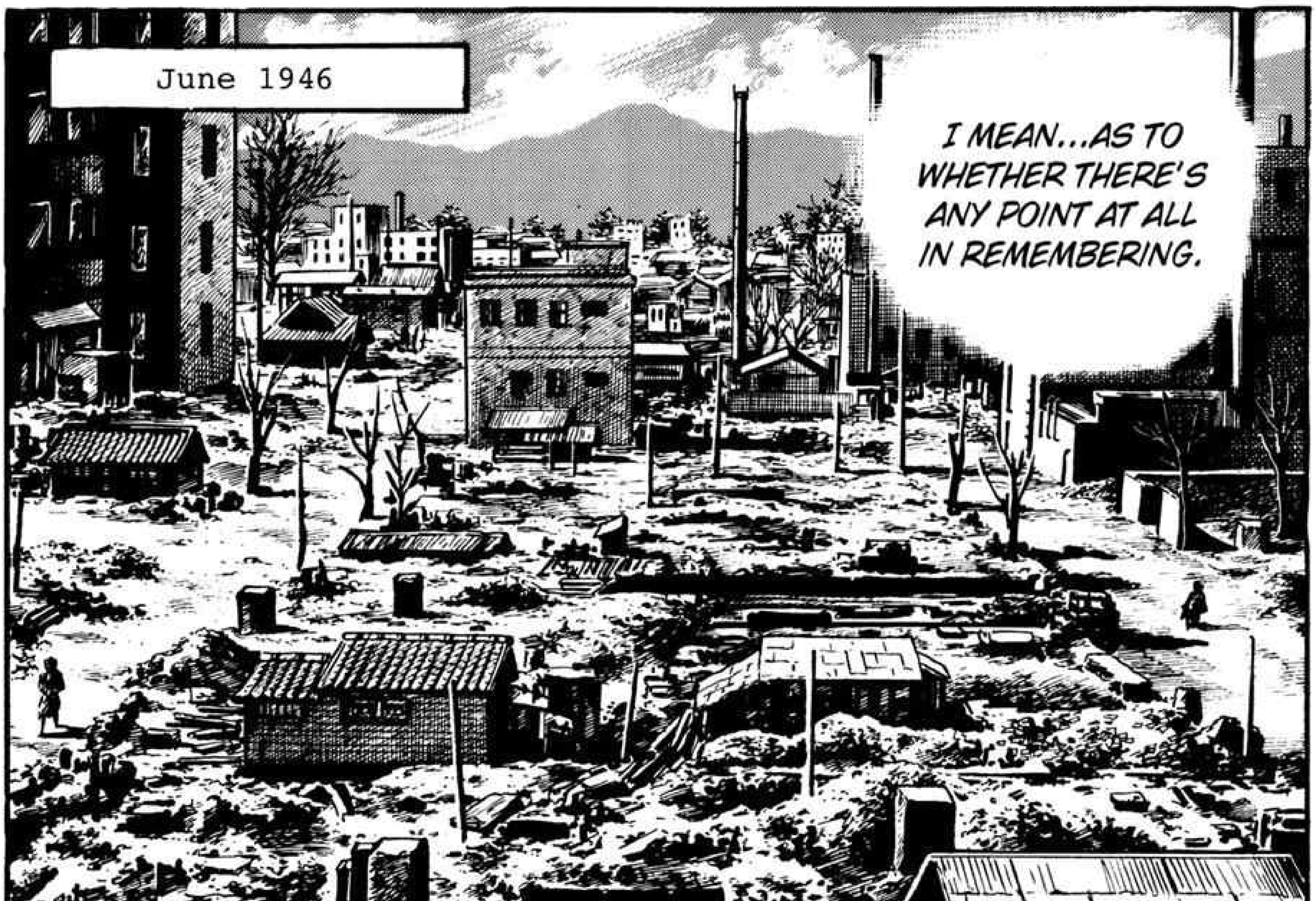


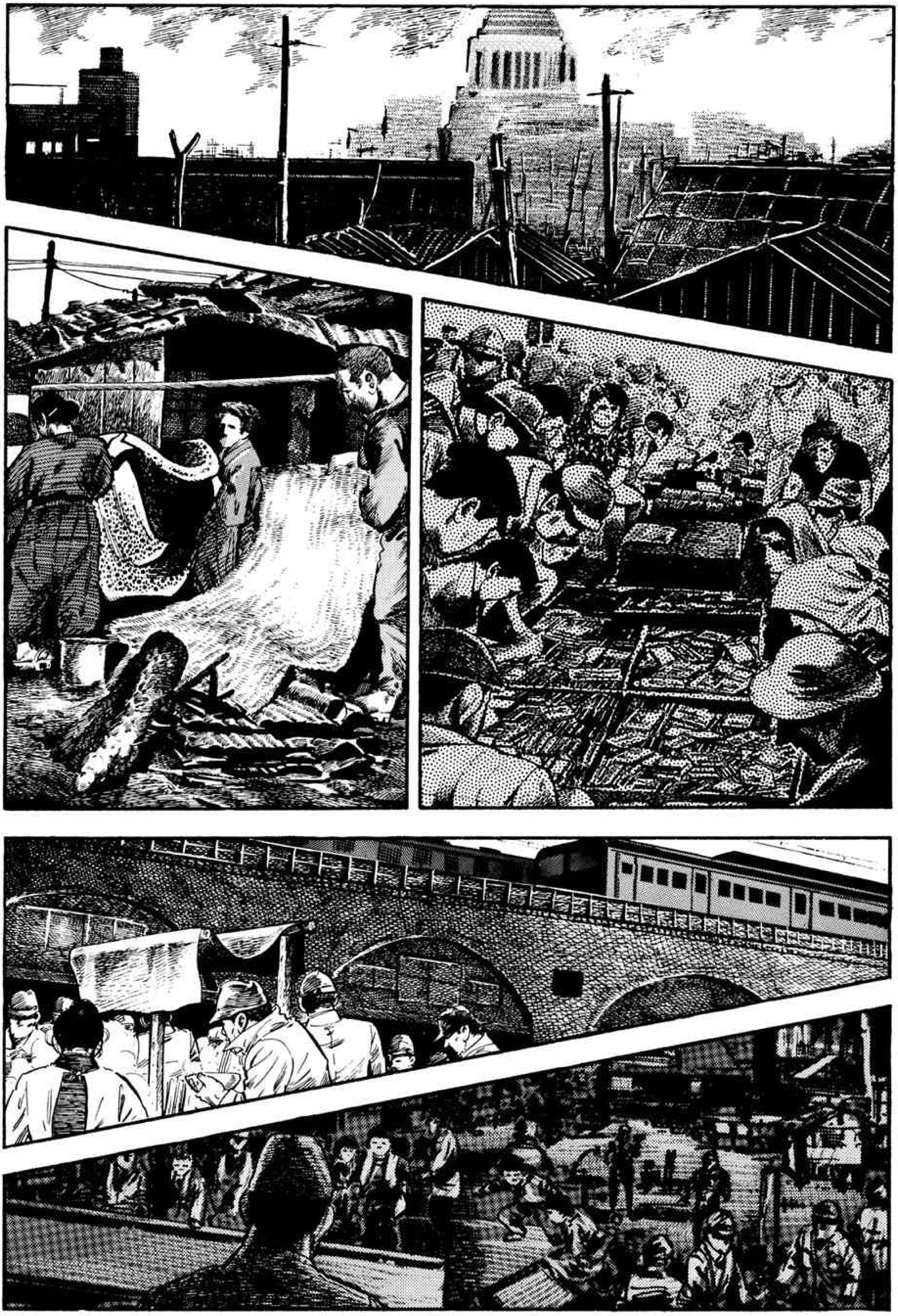

... SHUKIRO ?
ARE YOU... ARE YOU WELL ...
......
......
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN ...?
SO LONG AGO I HARDLY REMEMBER. SOMETIMES IT SEEMS--
......
YOU HARDLY REMEMBER, GOTO.
THE FIVE OF THEM, ALL ON THE FLOOR.
I...

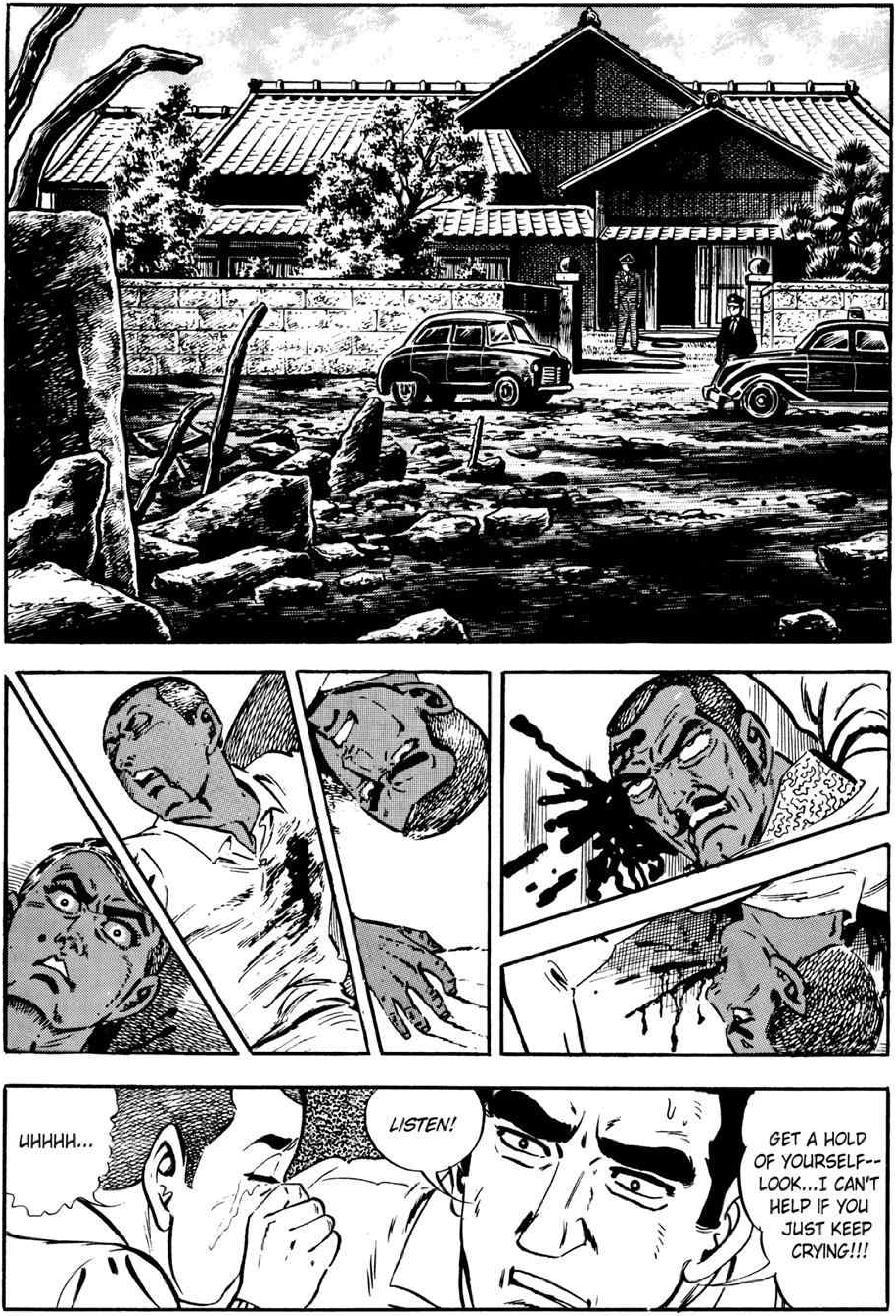

I MEAN...
...OF COURSE, SHUKIRO.
......

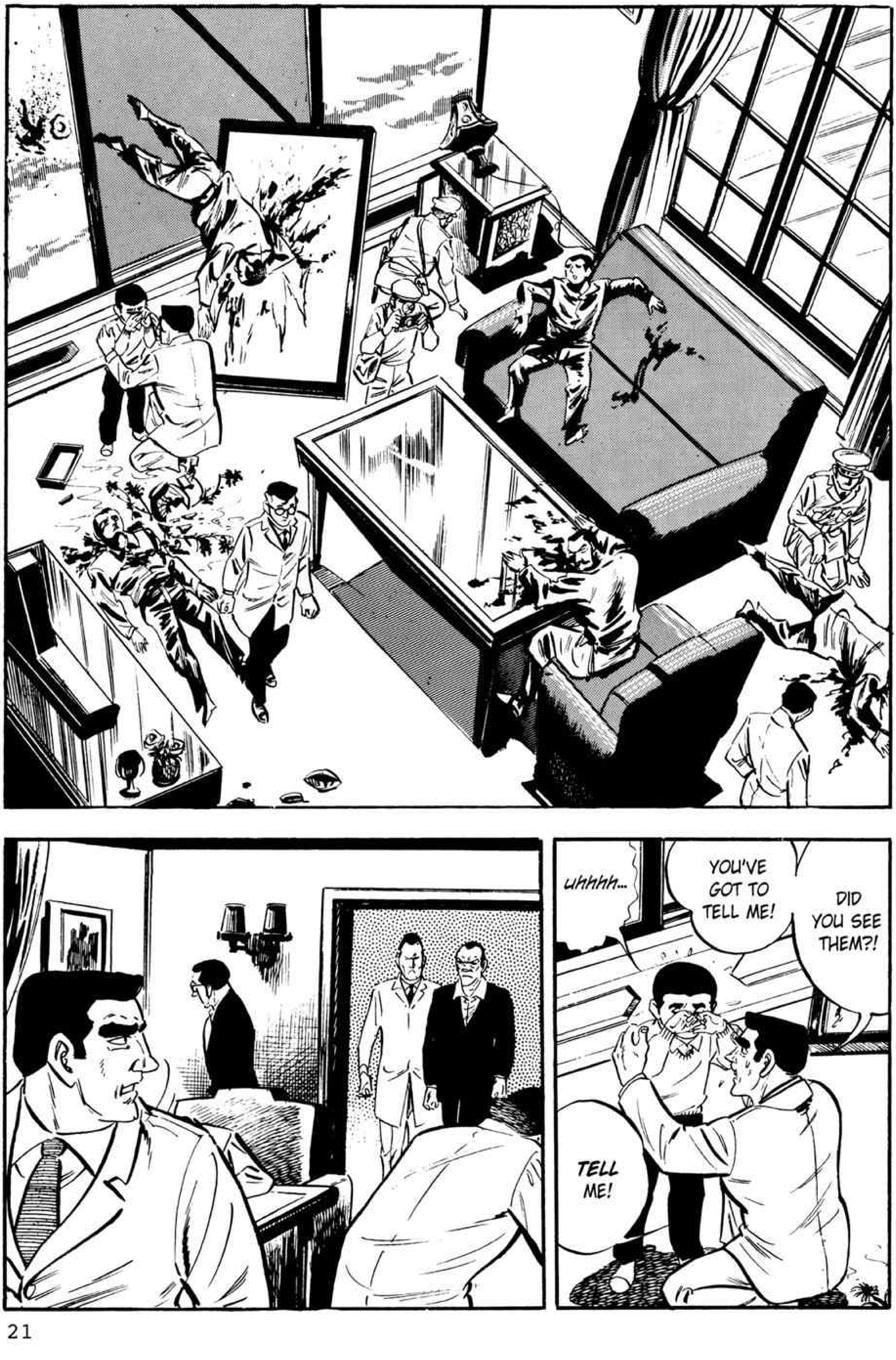

BUT IF YOU'VE COME BACK, YOU MUST REALIZE...
...THAT THE BURDEN IS UPON YOU-- NOT ME.

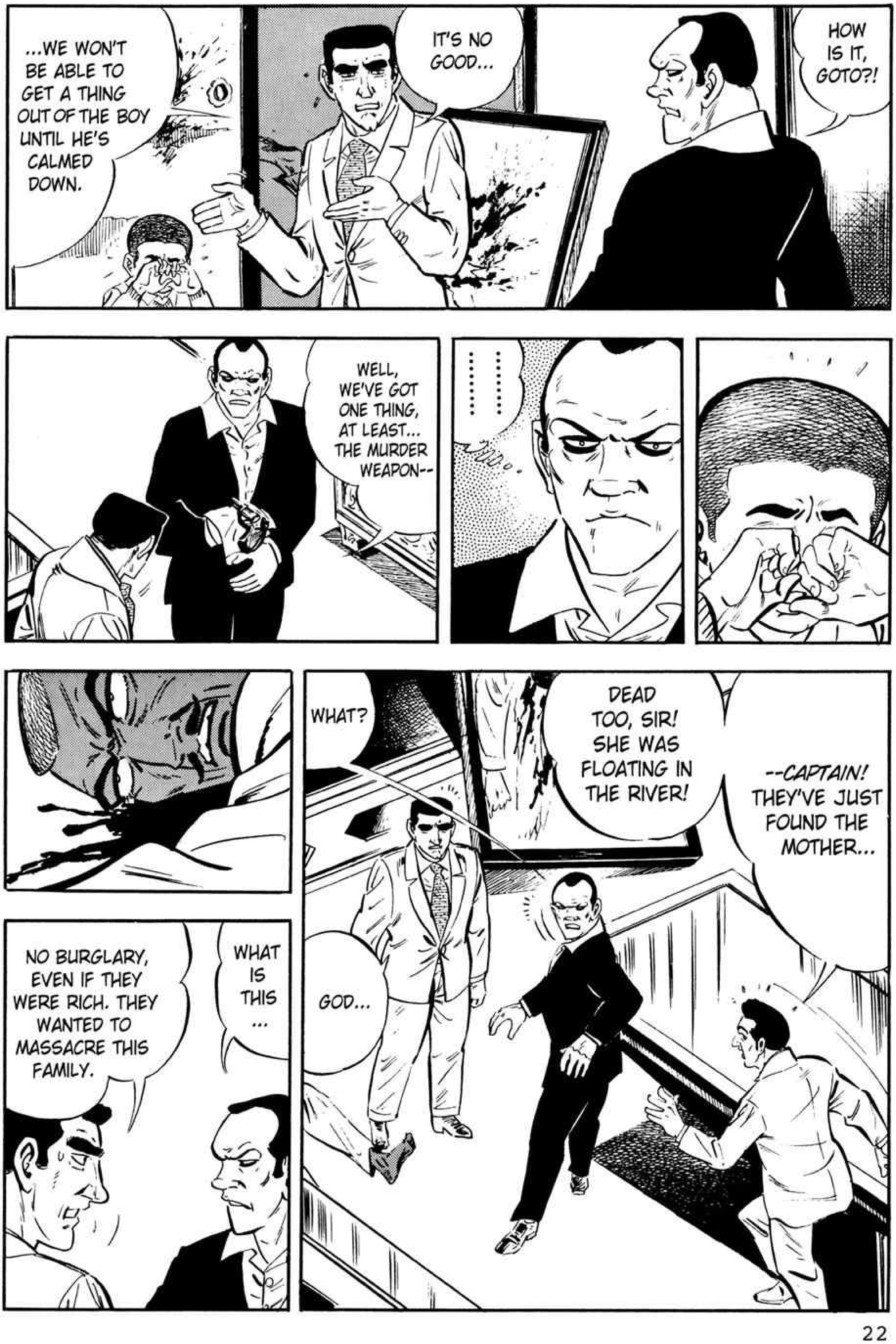
PART 2 THE MASSACRED HOUSE

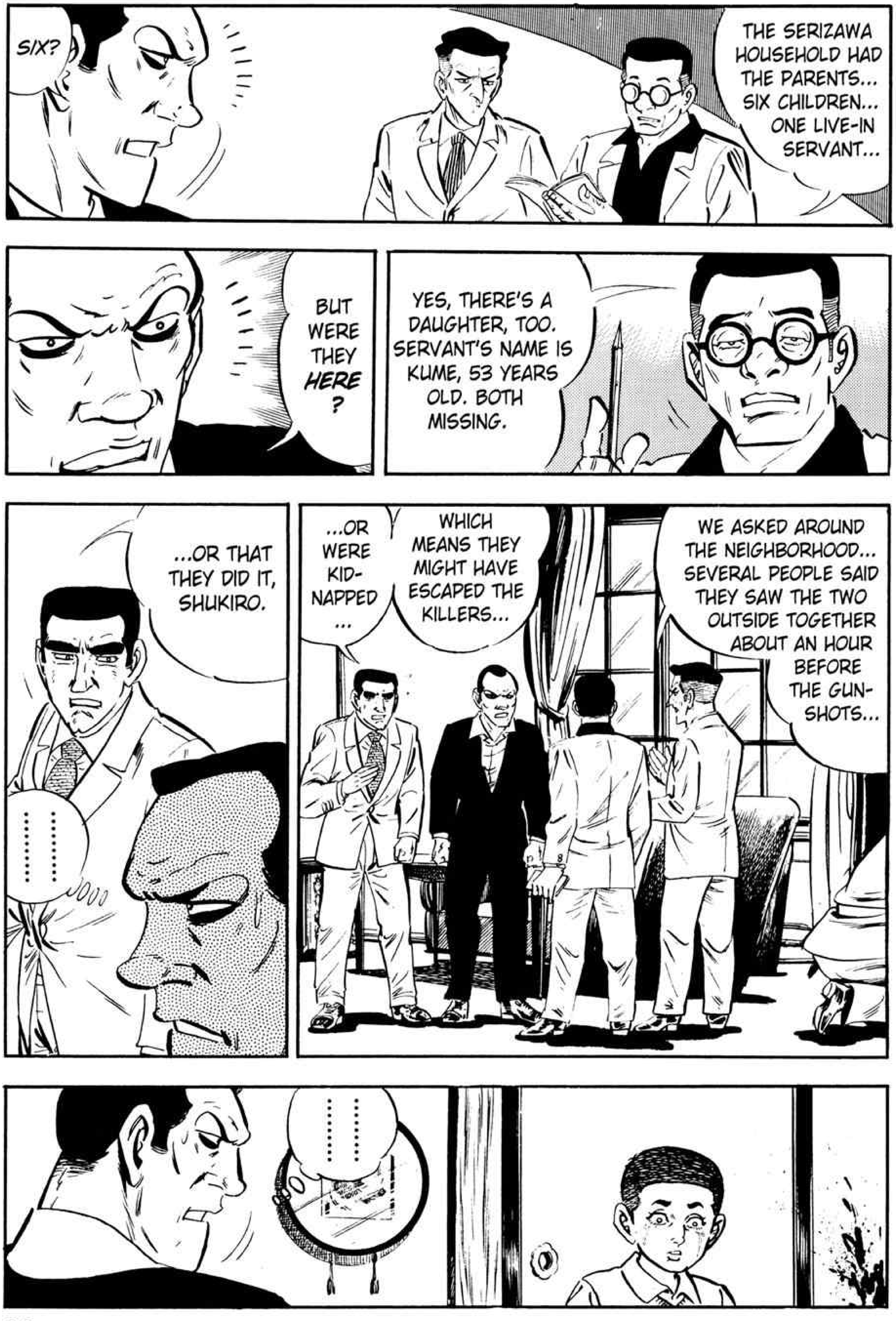

June 1946
I MEAN...AS TO WHETHER THERE'S ANY POINT AT ALL IN REMEMBERING.



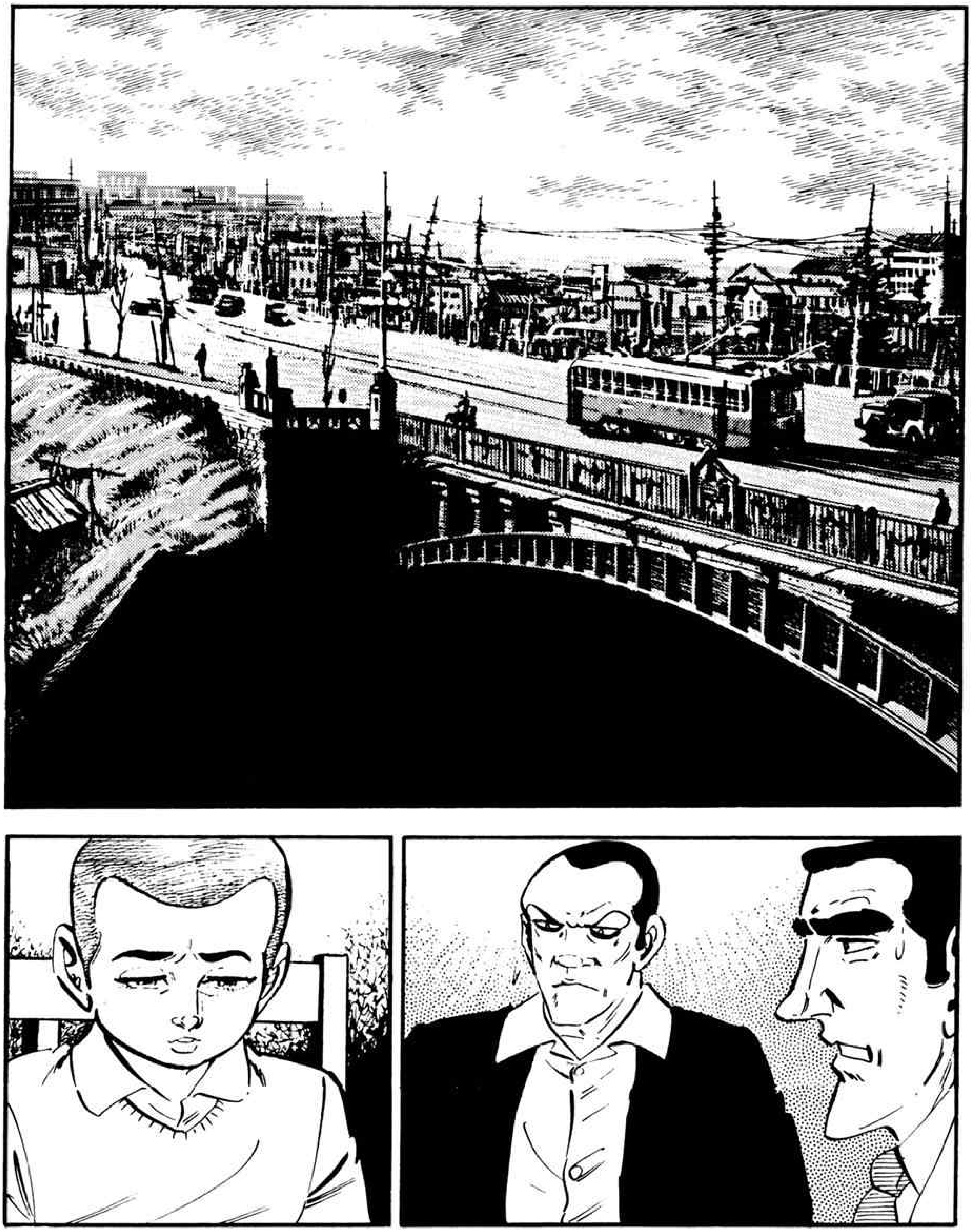

UHHHH...
LISTEN!
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF-- LOOK...I CAN'T HELP IF YOU JUST KEEP CRYING!!!

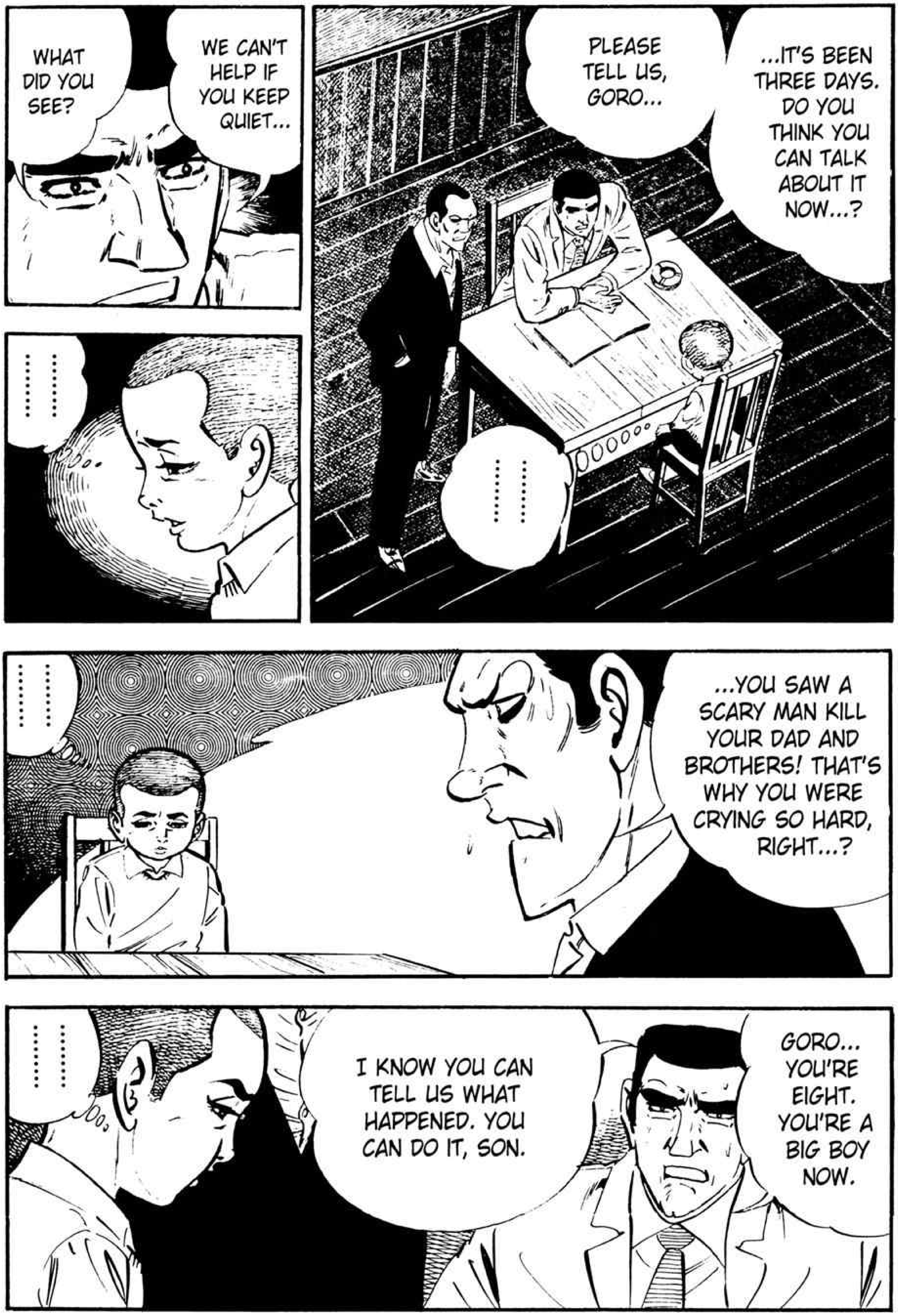

uhhhh...
YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME!
DID YOU SEE THEM?!
TELL ME!

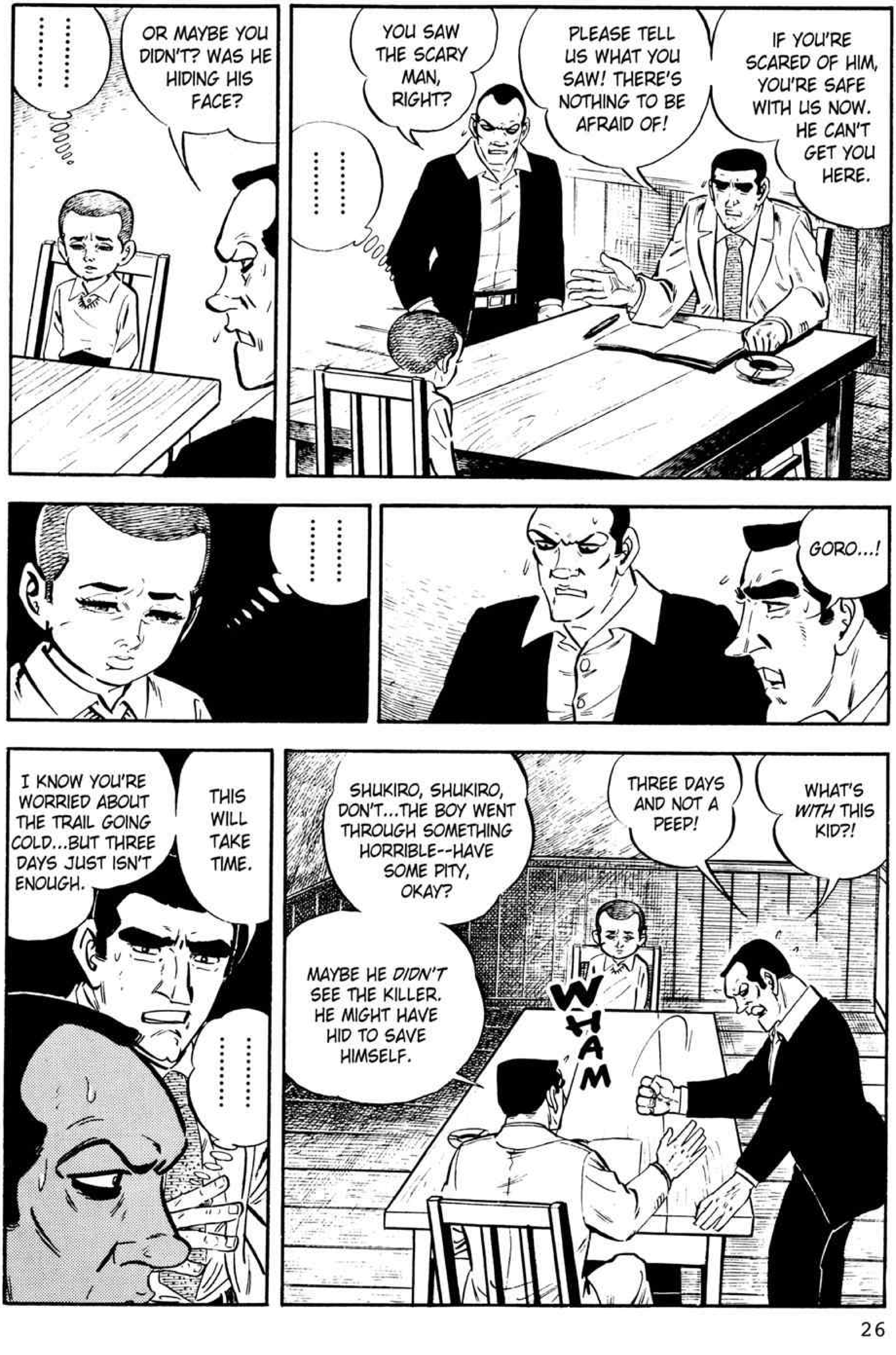

HOW IS IT, GOTO?!
IT'S NO GOOD...
...WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET A THING OUT OF THE BOY UNTIL HE'S CALMED DOWN.
......
WELL, WE'VE GOT ONE THING, AT LEAST... THE MURDER WEAPON--
--CAPTAIN! THEY'VE JUST FOUND THE MOTHER...
DEAD TOO, SIR! SHE WAS FLOATING IN THE RIVER!
WHAT?
GOD...
WHAT IS THIS ...
NO BURGLARY, EVEN IF THEY WERE RICH. THEY WANTED TO MASSACRE THIS FAMILY.

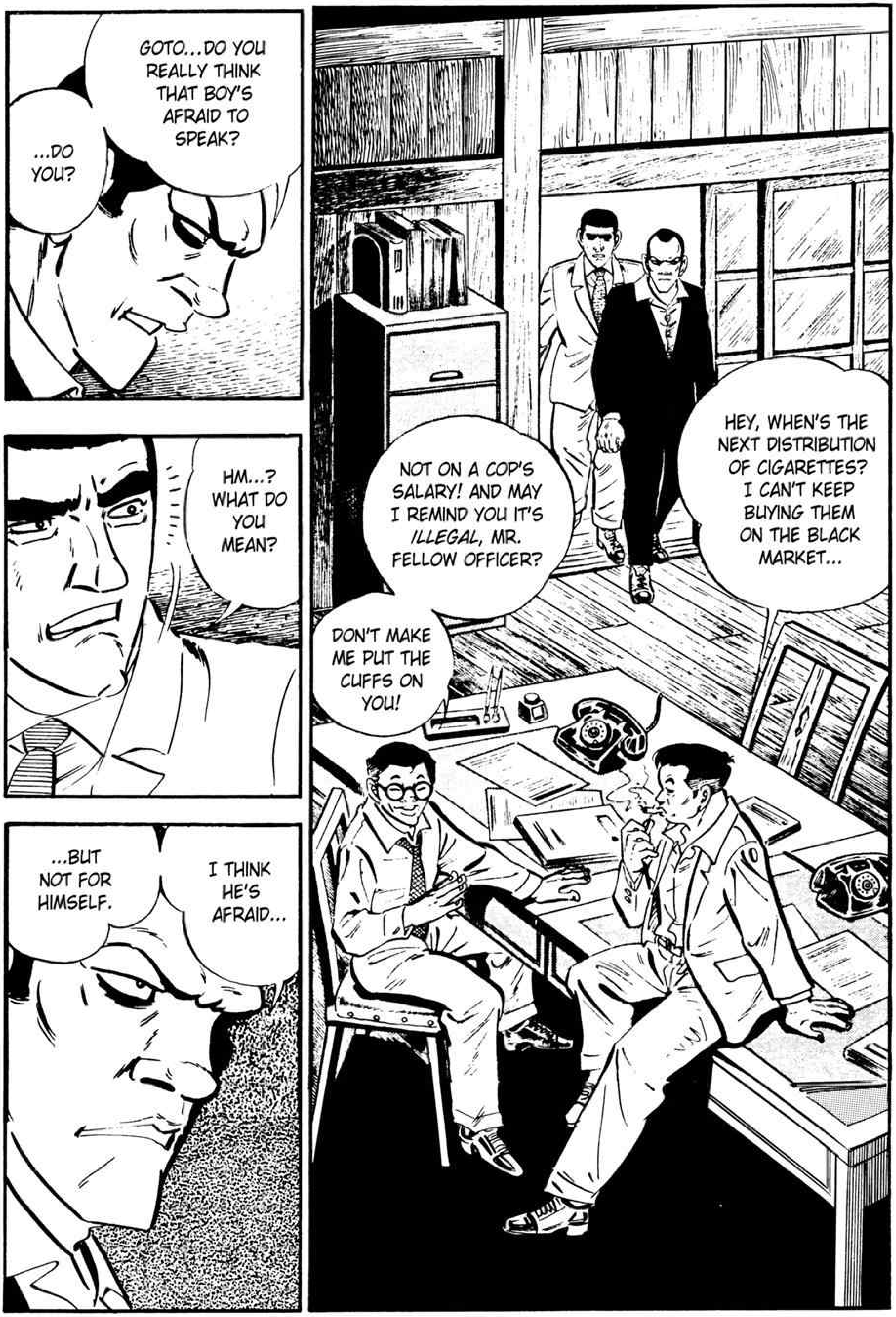

THE SERIZAWA HOUSEHOLD HAD THE PARENTS... SIX CHILDREN... ONE LIVE-IN SERVANT...
SIX?
YES, THERE'S A DAUGHTER, TOO. SERVANT'S NAME IS KUME, 53 YEARS OLD. BOTH MISSING.
BUT WERE THEY *HERE*?
WE ASKED AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD... SEVERAL PEOPLE SAID THEY SAW THE TWO OUTSIDE TOGETHER ABOUT AN HOUR BEFORE THE GUNSHOTS...
WHICH MEANS THEY MIGHT HAVE ESCAPED THE KILLERS...
...OR WERE KIDNAPPED...
...OR THAT THEY DID IT, SHUKIRO.
......
......

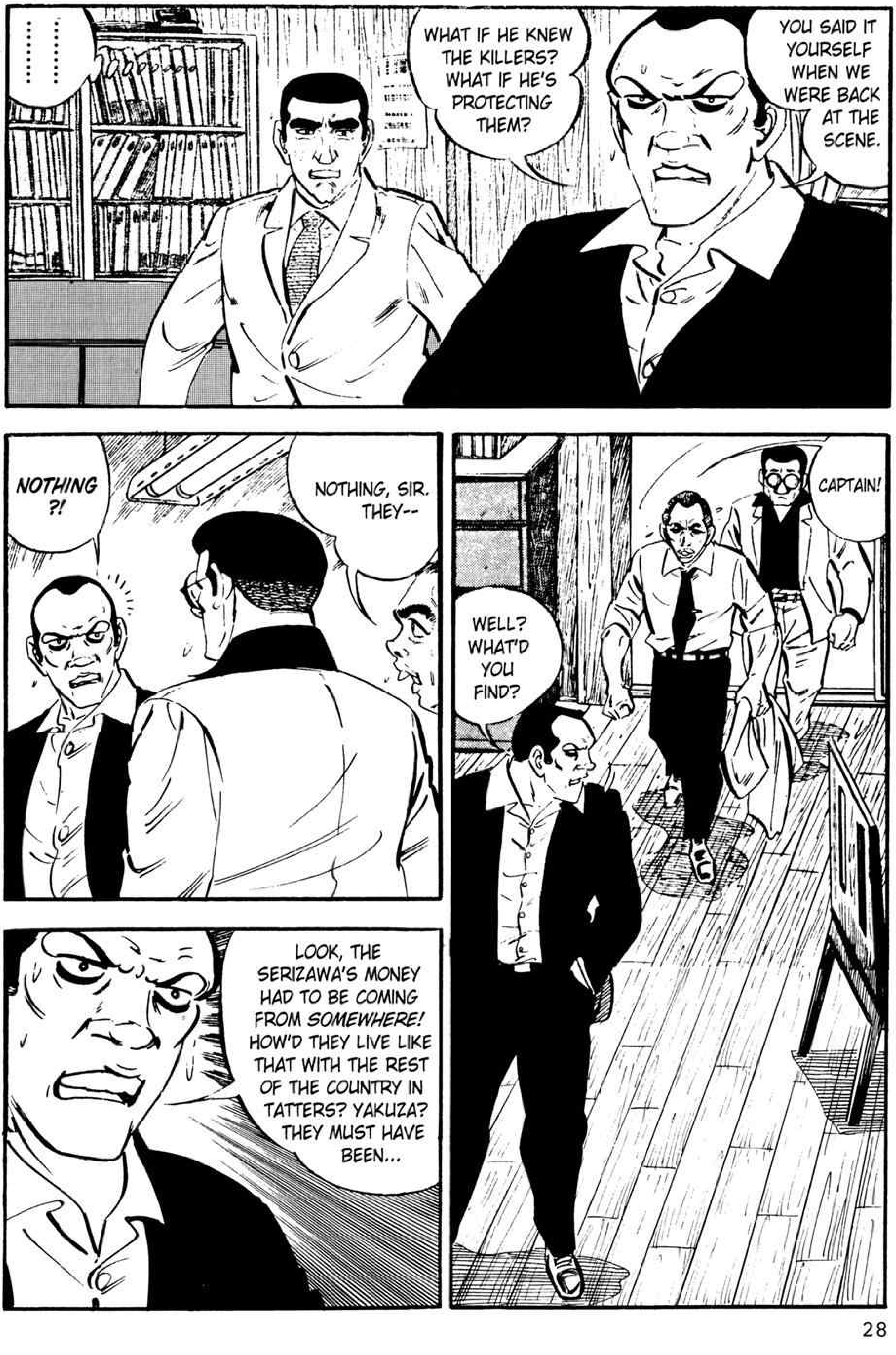
PART 3 SURVIVOR GORO SERIZAWA

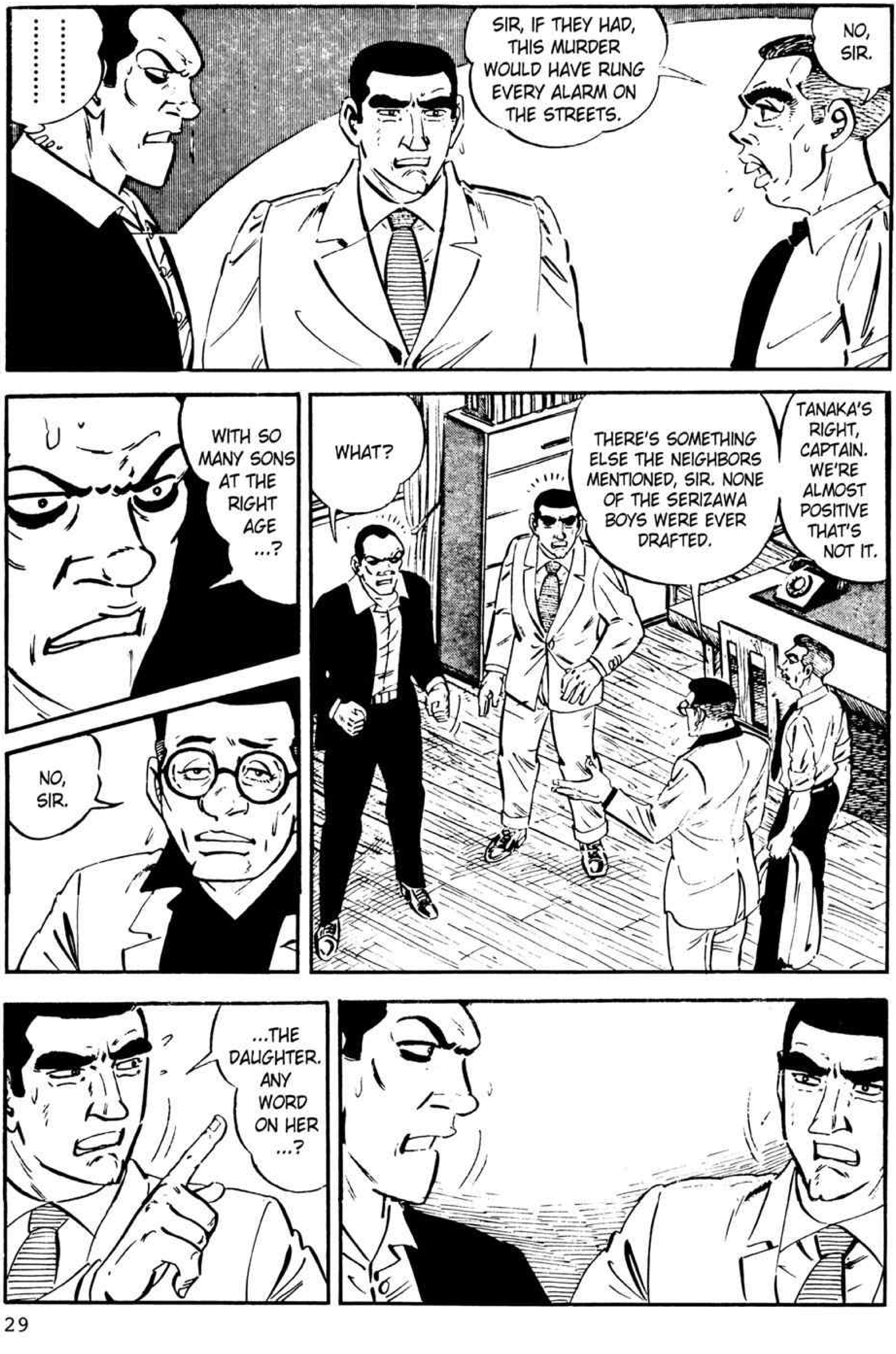


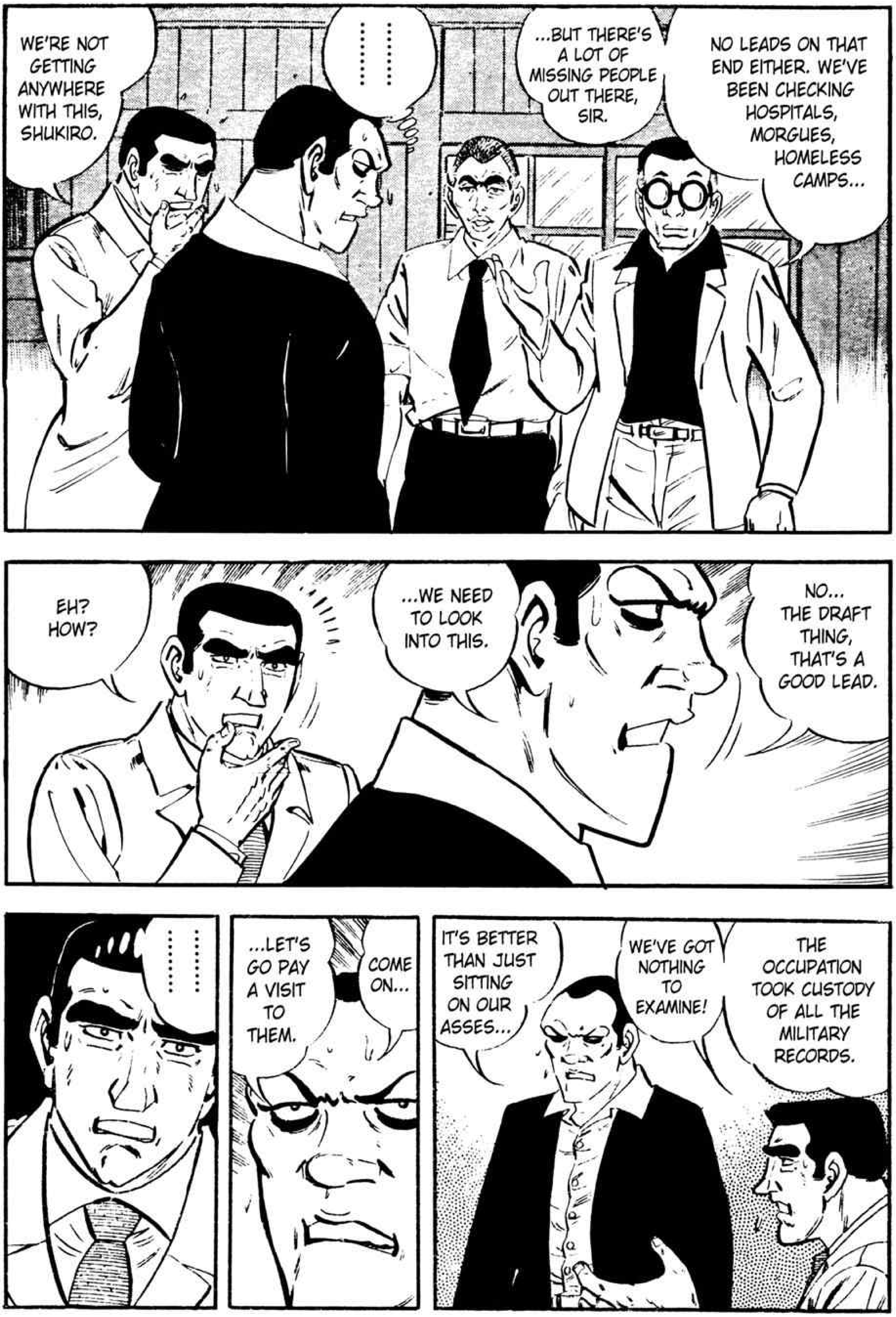

...IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS. DO YOU THINK YOU CAN TALK ABOUT IT NOW...?
PLEASE TELL US, GORO...
......
WE CAN'T HELP IF YOU KEEP QUIET...
WHAT DID YOU SEE?
......
...YOU SAW A SCARY MAN KILL YOUR DAD AND BROTHERS! THAT'S WHY YOU WERE CRYING SO HARD, RIGHT...?
......
GORO... YOU'RE EIGHT. YOU'RE A BIG BOY NOW.
I KNOW YOU CAN TELL US WHAT HAPPENED. YOU CAN DO IT, SON.
......


OR MAYBE YOU DIDN'T? WAS HE HIDING HIS FACE?
……
YOU SAW THE SCARY MAN, RIGHT?
PLEASE TELL US WHAT YOU SAW! THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF!
IF YOU'RE SCARED OF HIM, YOU'RE SAFE WITH US NOW. HE CAN'T GET YOU HERE.
……
……
GORO...!
I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE TRAIL GOING COLD...BUT THREE DAYS JUST ISN'T ENOUGH.
THIS WILL TAKE TIME.
……
THREE DAYS AND NOT A PEEP!
WHAT'S *WITH* THIS KID?!
WHAM
SHUKIRO, SHUKIRO, DON'T...THE BOY WENT THROUGH SOMETHING HORRIBLE--HAVE SOME PITY, OKAY?
MAYBE HE *DIDN'T* SEE THE KILLER. HE MIGHT HAVE HID TO SAVE HIMSELF.

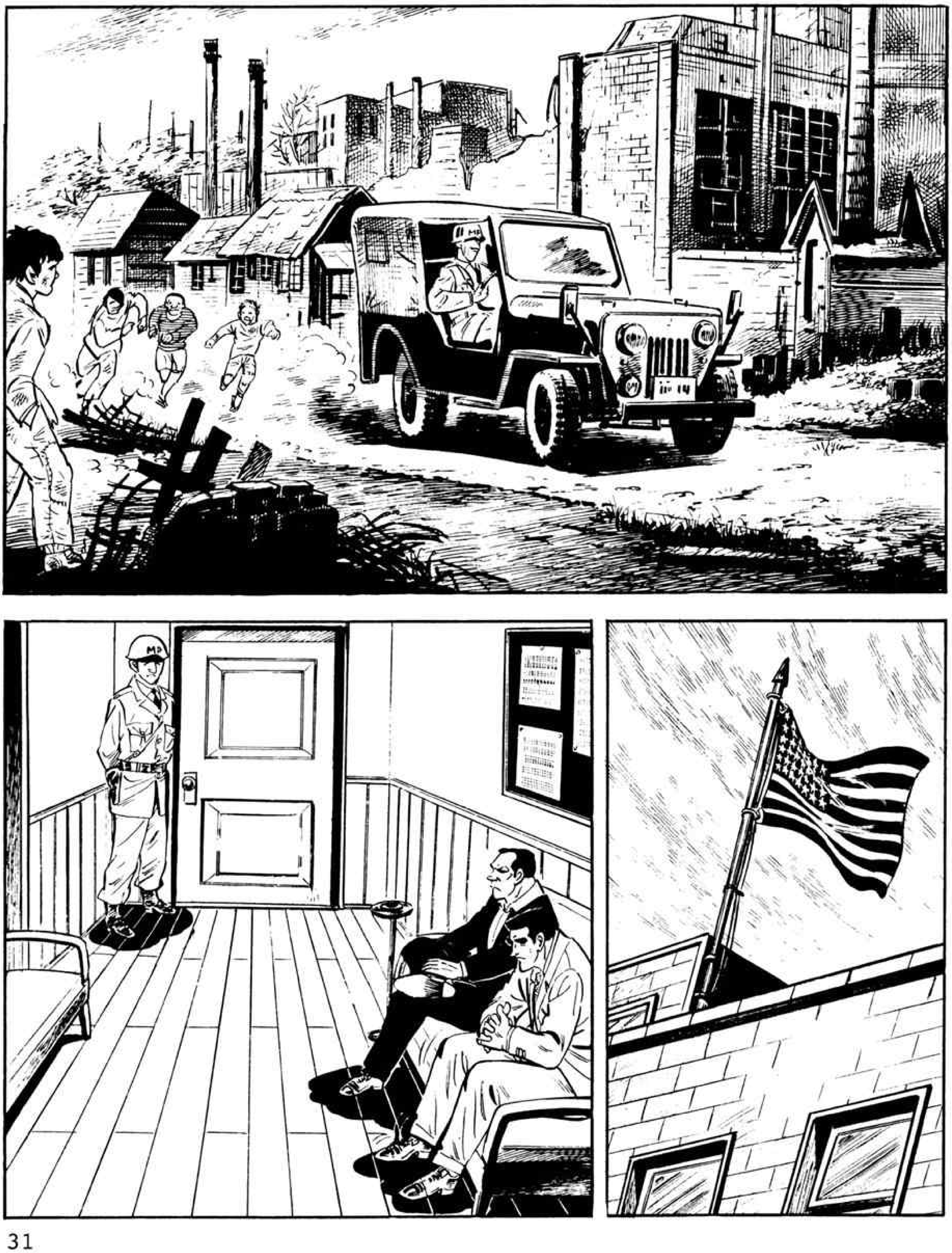

HEY, WHEN'S THE NEXT DISTRIBUTION OF CIGARETTES? I CAN'T KEEP BUYING THEM ON THE BLACK MARKET...
NOT ON A COP'S SALARY! AND MAY I REMIND YOU IT'S *ILLEGAL*, MR. FELLOW OFFICER?
DON'T MAKE ME PUT THE CUFFS ON YOU!
GOTO...DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT BOY'S AFRAID TO SPEAK?
...DO YOU?
HM...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I THINK HE'S AFRAID...
...BUT NOT FOR HIMSELF.

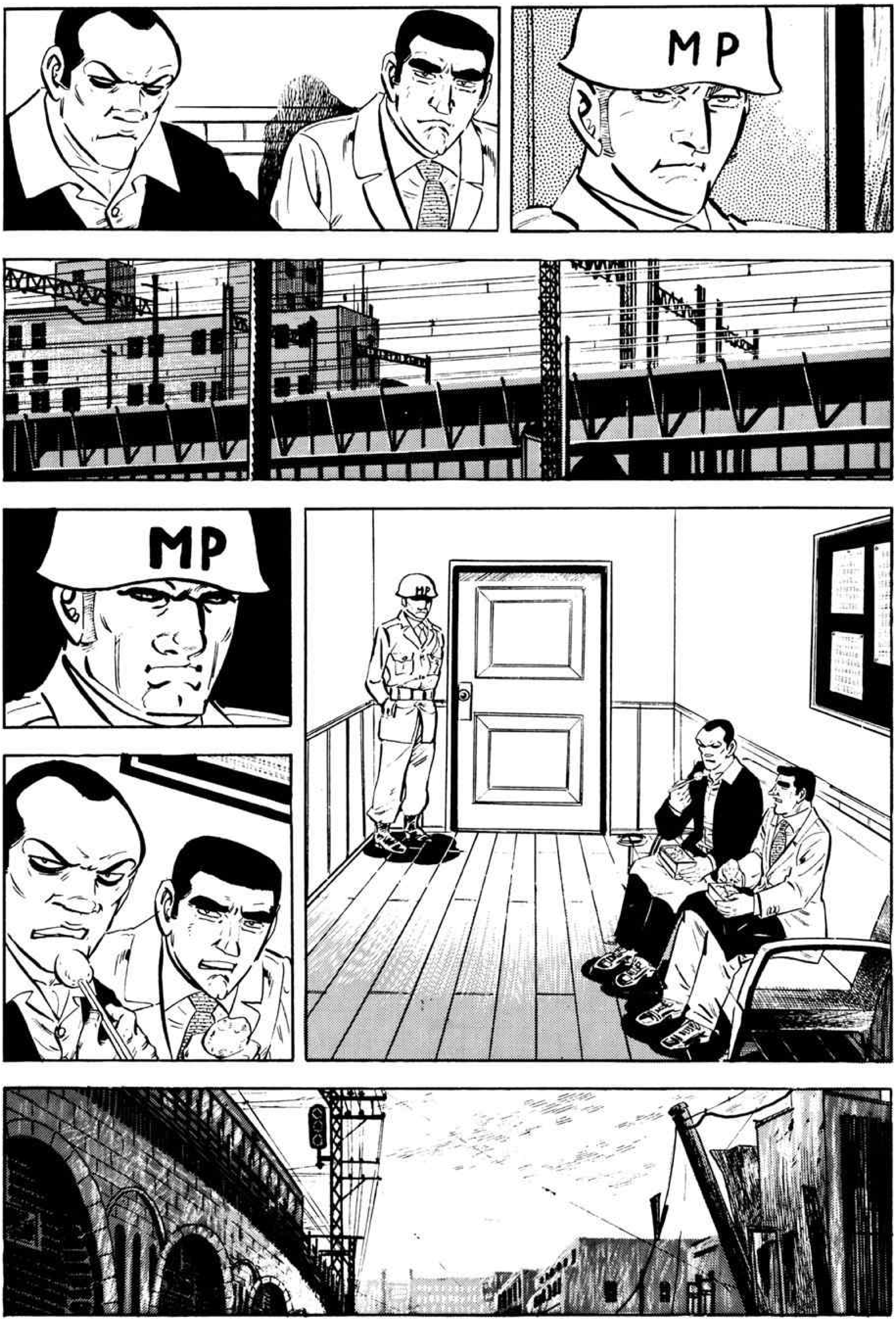

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF WHEN WE WERE BACK AT THE SCENE.
WHAT IF HE KNEW THE KILLERS? WHAT IF HE'S PROTECTING THEM?
......
CAPTAIN!
WELL? WHAT'D YOU FIND?
NOTHING, SIR. THEY--
NOTHING ?!
LOOK, THE SERIZAWA'S MONEY HAD TO BE COMING FROM *SOMEWHERE!* HOW'D THEY LIVE LIKE THAT WITH THE REST OF THE COUNTRY IN TATTERS? YAKUZA? THEY MUST HAVE BEEN...


NO, SIR.
SIR, IF THEY HAD, THIS MURDER WOULD HAVE RUNG EVERY ALARM ON THE STREETS.
……
TANAKA'S RIGHT, CAPTAIN. WE'RE ALMOST POSITIVE THAT'S NOT IT.
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THE NEIGHBORS MENTIONED, SIR. NONE OF THE SERIZAWA BOYS WERE EVER DRAFTED.
WHAT?
WITH SO MANY SONS AT THE RIGHT AGE ...?
NO, SIR.
...THE DAUGHTER. ANY WORD ON HER ...?


NO LEADS ON THAT END EITHER. WE'VE BEEN CHECKING HOSPITALS, MORGUES, HOMELESS CAMPS...
...BUT THERE'S A LOT OF MISSING PEOPLE OUT THERE, SIR.
......
WE'RE NOT GETTING ANYWHERE WITH THIS, SHUKIRO.
NO... THE DRAFT THING, THAT'S A GOOD LEAD.
...WE NEED TO LOOK INTO THIS.
EH? HOW?
THE OCCUPATION TOOK CUSTODY OF ALL THE MILITARY RECORDS.
WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO EXAMINE!
IT'S BETTER THAN JUST SITTING ON OUR ASSES...
COME ON...
...LET'S GO PAY A VISIT TO THEM.
......

PART 4 UNDER THE STARS AND STRIPES

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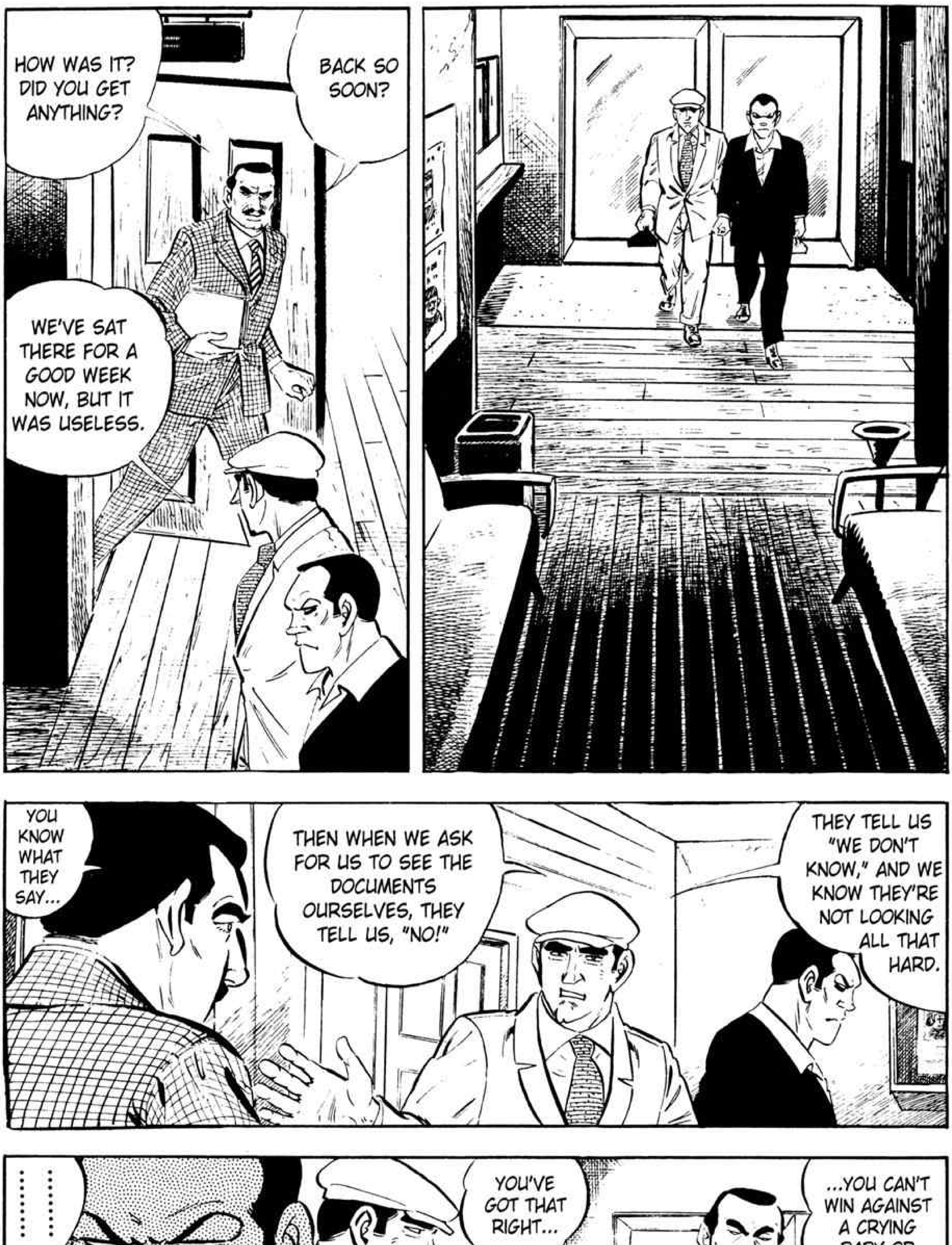
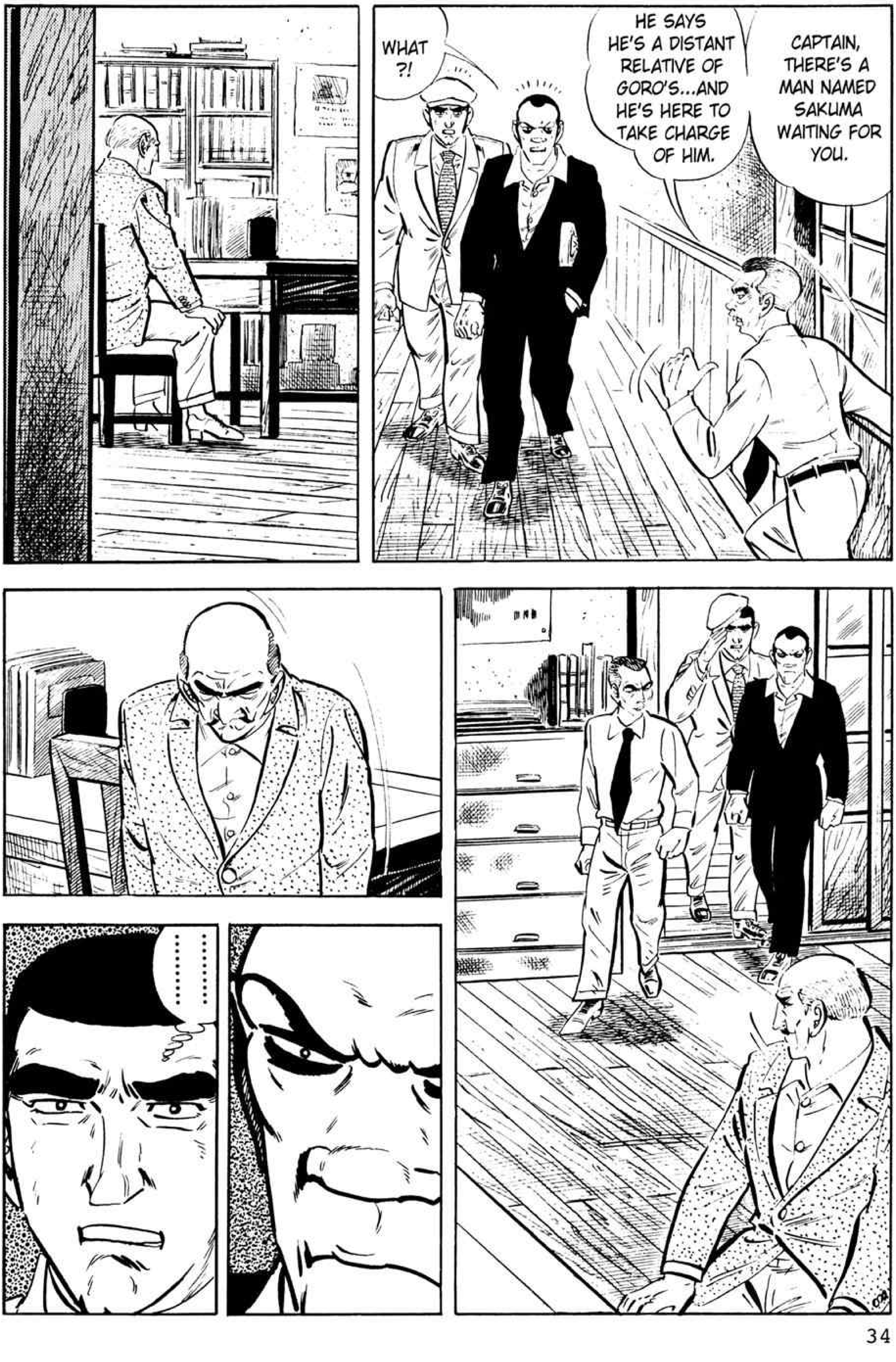
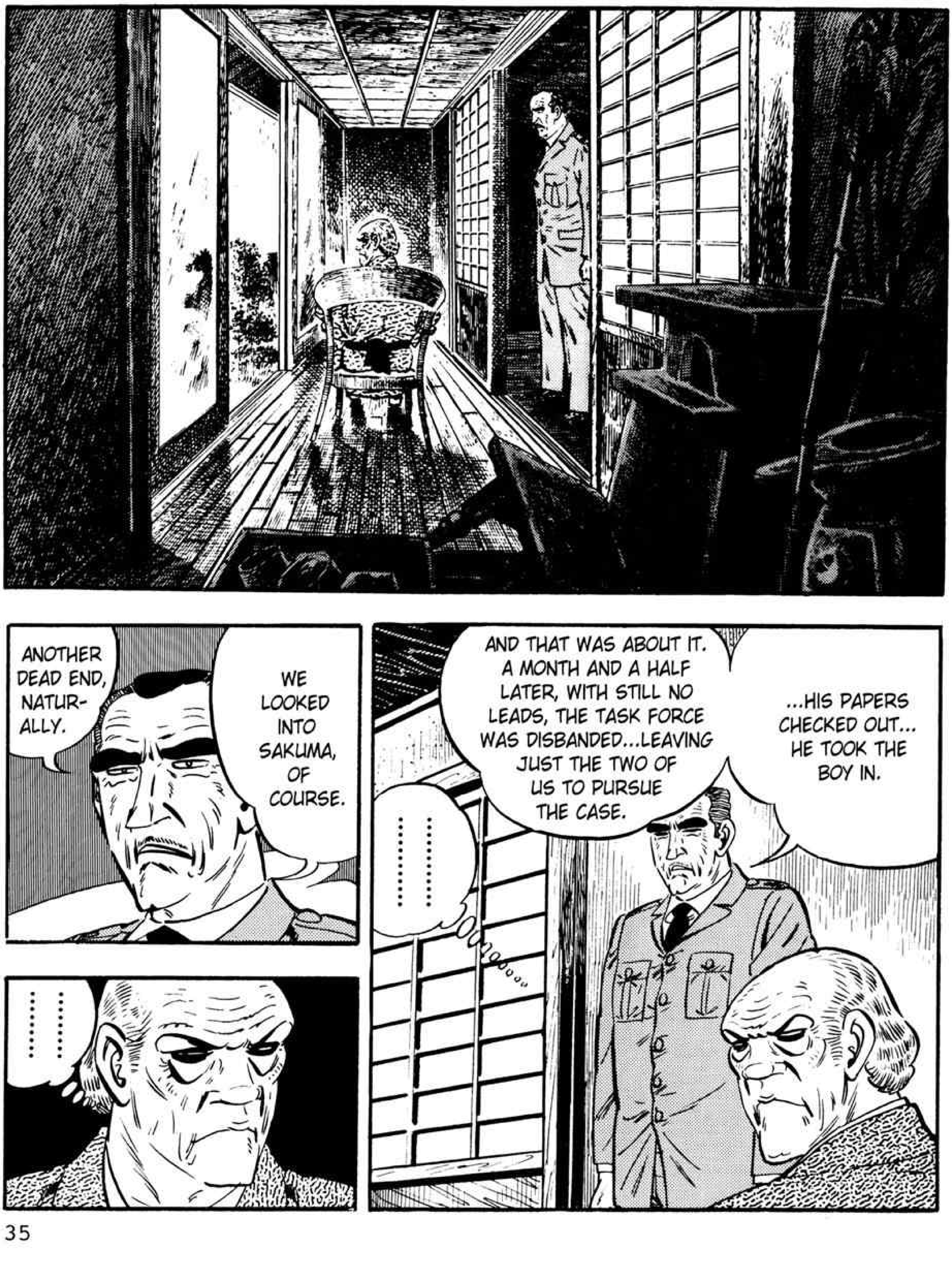
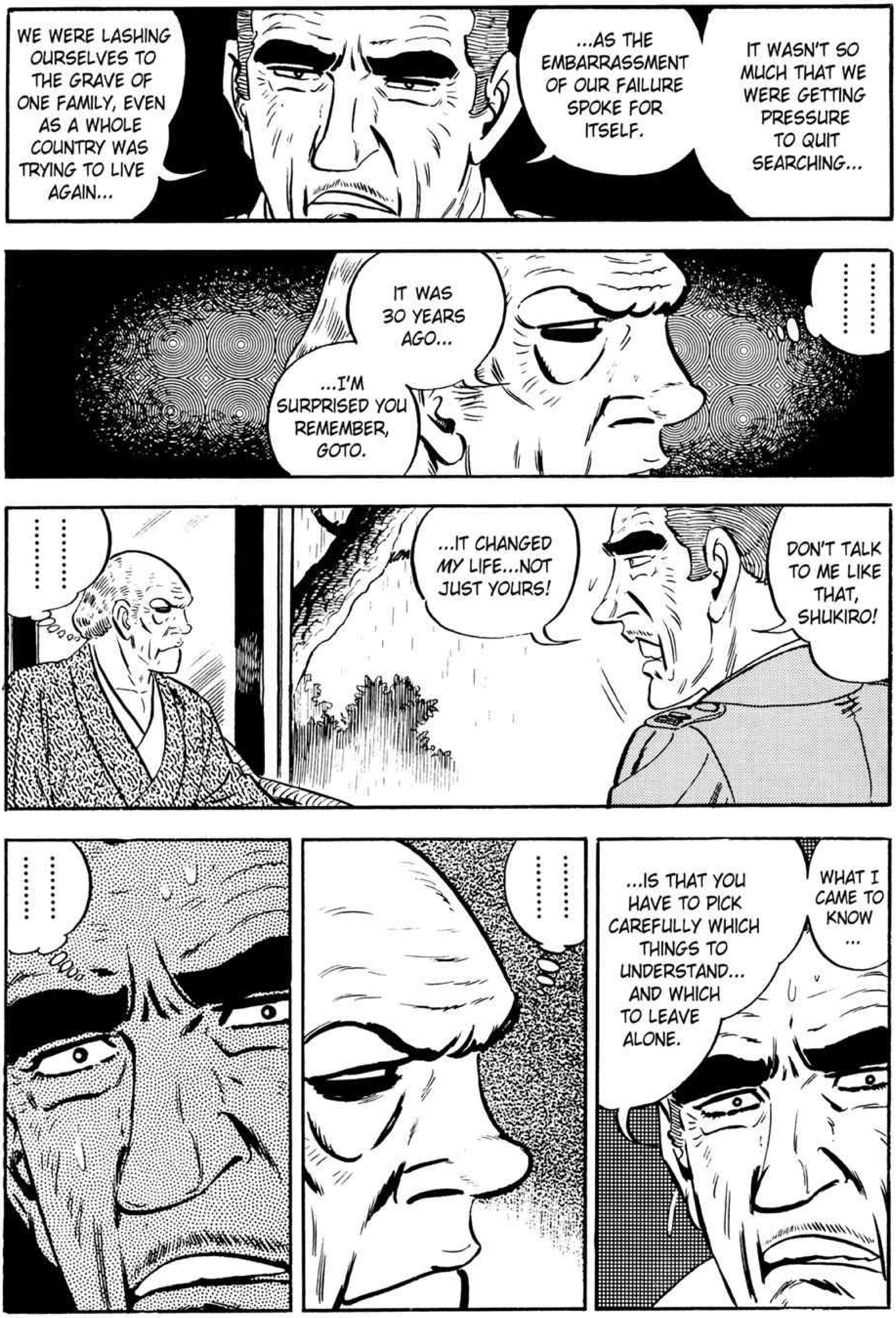
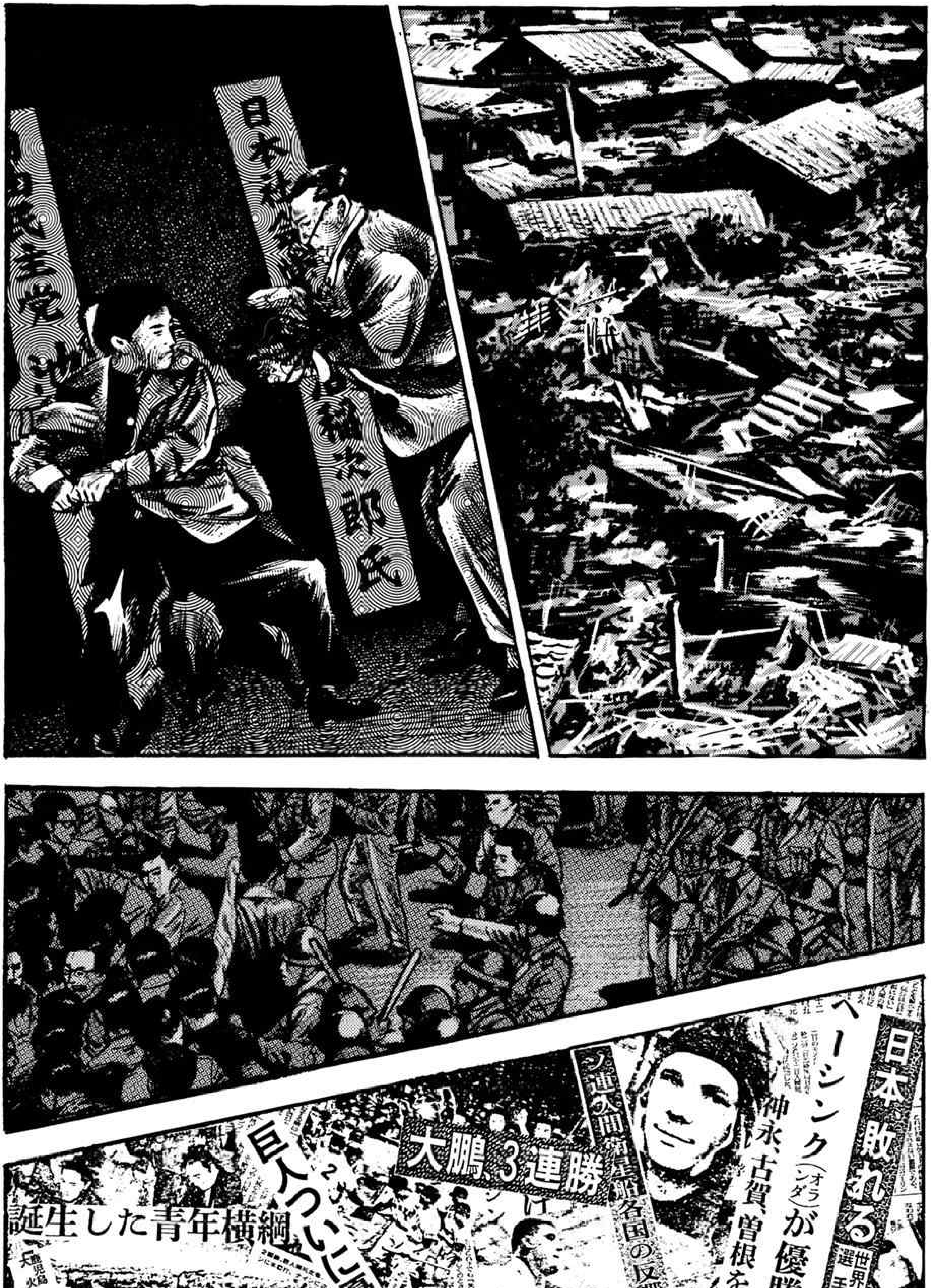

BACK SO SOON?
HOW WAS IT? DID YOU GET ANYTHING?
WE'VE SAT THERE FOR A GOOD WEEK NOW, BUT IT WAS USELESS.
THEY TELL US "WE DON'T KNOW," AND WE KNOW THEY'RE NOT LOOKING ALL THAT HARD.
THEN WHEN WE ASK FOR US TO SEE THE DOCUMENTS OURSELVES, THEY TELL US, "NO!"
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...
...YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST A CRYING BABY OR AMERICA!
YOU'VE GOT THAT RIGHT...
......

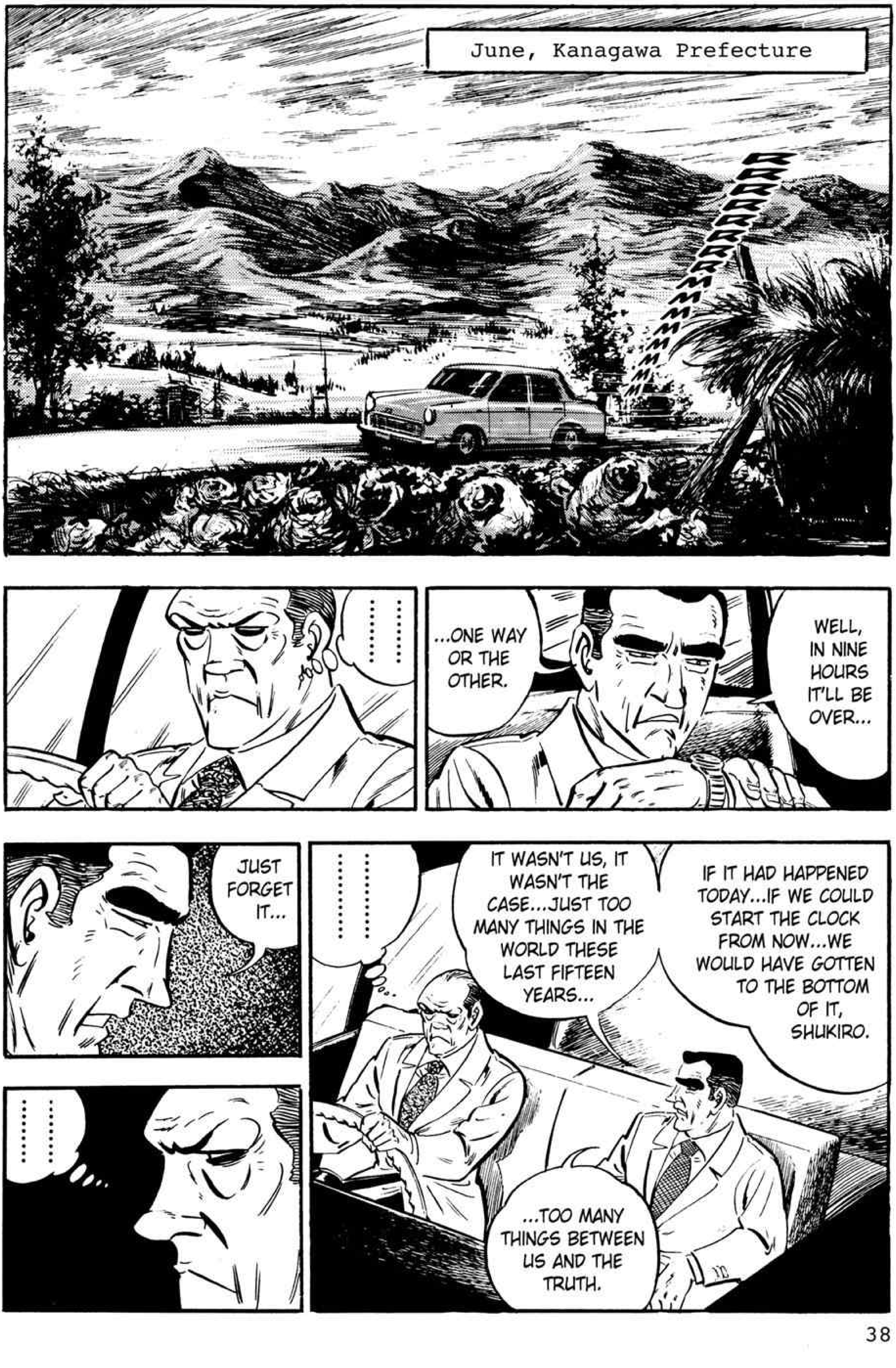

CAPTAIN, THERE'S A MAN NAMED SAKUMA WAITING FOR YOU.
HE SAYS HE'S A DISTANT RELATIVE OF GORO'S...AND HE'S HERE TO TAKE CHARGE OF HIM.
WHAT ?!
......

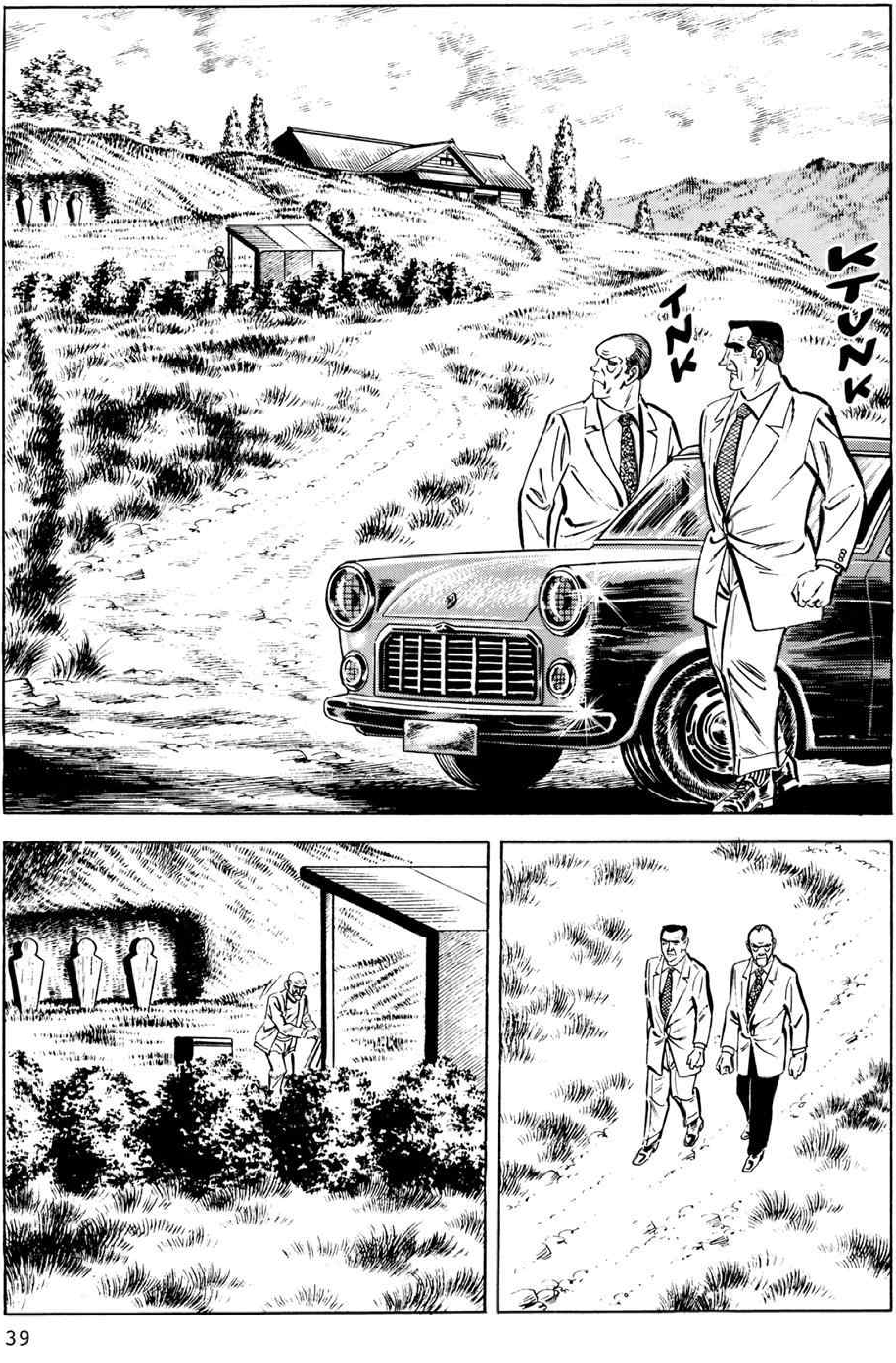
PART 5 STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

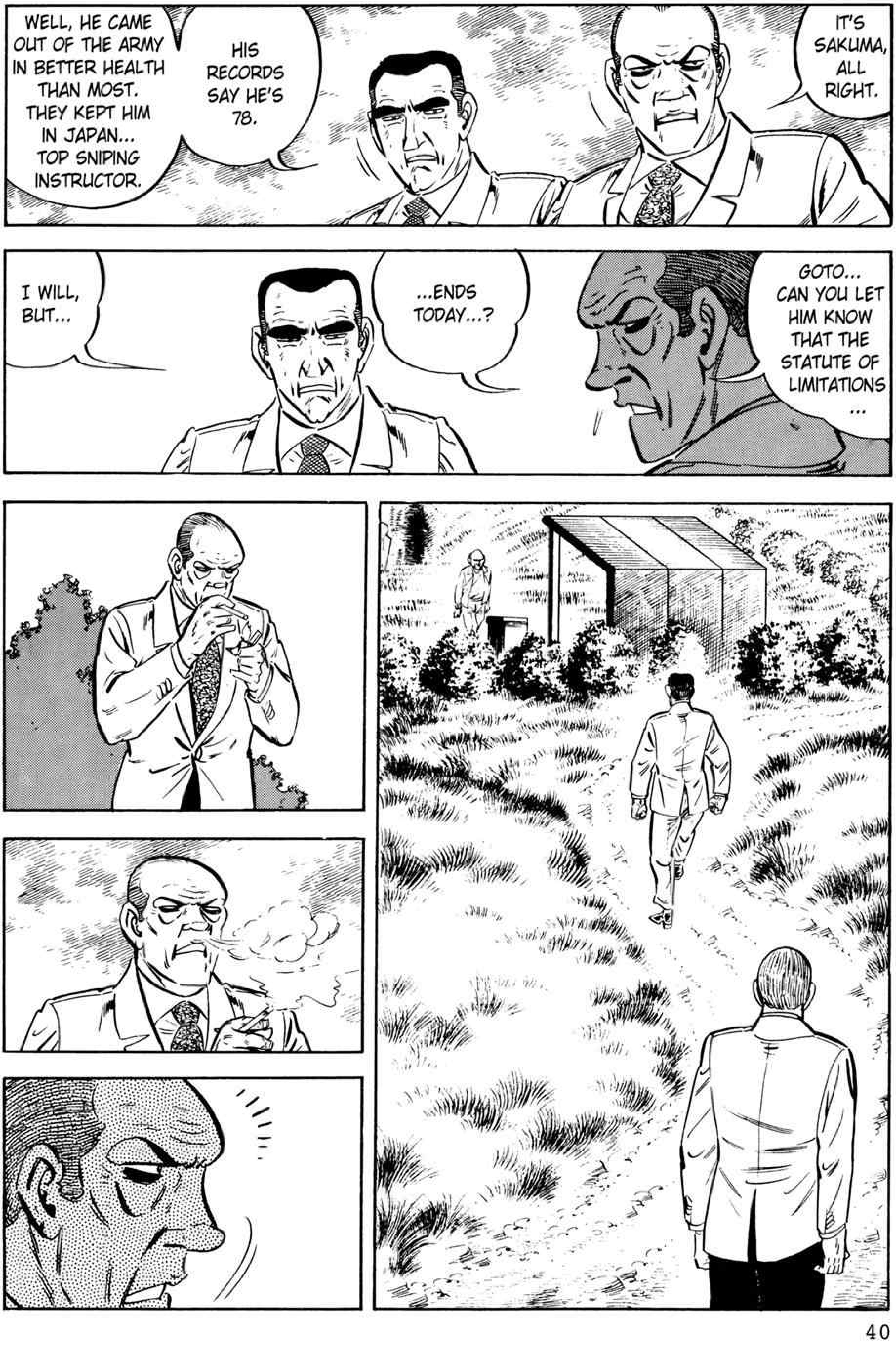

ANOTHER DEAD END, NATURALLY.
WE LOOKED INTO SAKUMA, OF COURSE.
......
AND THAT WAS ABOUT IT. A MONTH AND A HALF LATER, WITH STILL NO LEADS, THE TASK FORCE WAS DISBANDED...LEAVING JUST THE TWO OF US TO PURSUE THE CASE.
...HIS PAPERS CHECKED OUT... HE TOOK THE BOY IN.
......

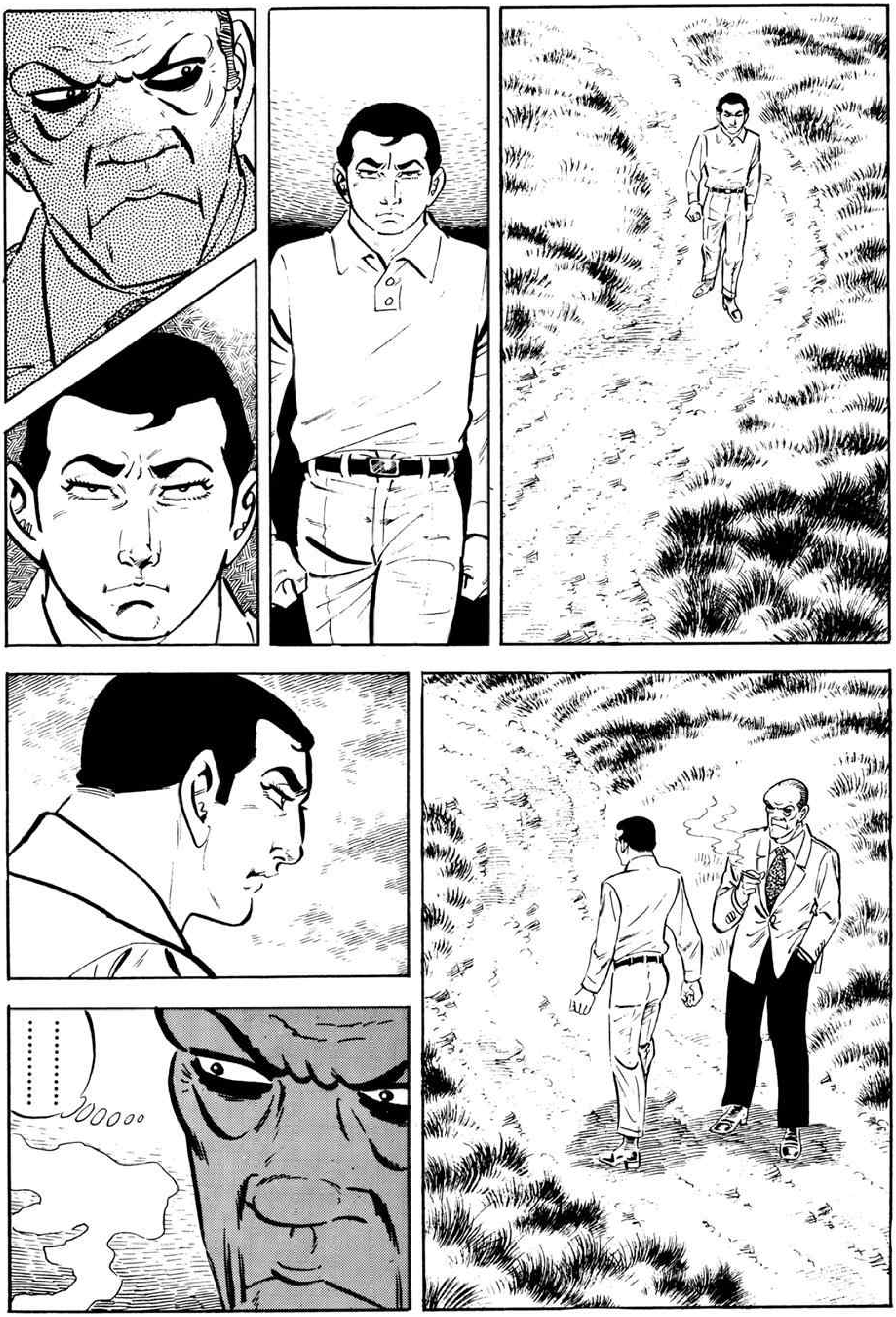

IT WASN'T SO MUCH THAT WE WERE GETTING PRESSURE TO QUIT SEARCHING...
...AS THE EMBARRASSMENT OF OUR FAILURE SPOKE FOR ITSELF.
WE WERE LASHING OURSELVES TO THE GRAVE OF ONE FAMILY, EVEN AS A WHOLE COUNTRY WAS TRYING TO LIVE AGAIN...
......
IT WAS 30 YEARS AGO...
...I'M SURPRISED YOU REMEMBER, GOTO.
DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE THAT, SHUKIRO!
...IT CHANGED *MY* LIFE...NOT JUST YOURS!
......
WHAT I CAME TO KNOW...
...IS THAT YOU HAVE TO PICK CAREFULLY WHICH THINGS TO UNDERSTAND... AND WHICH TO LEAVE ALONE.
......
......

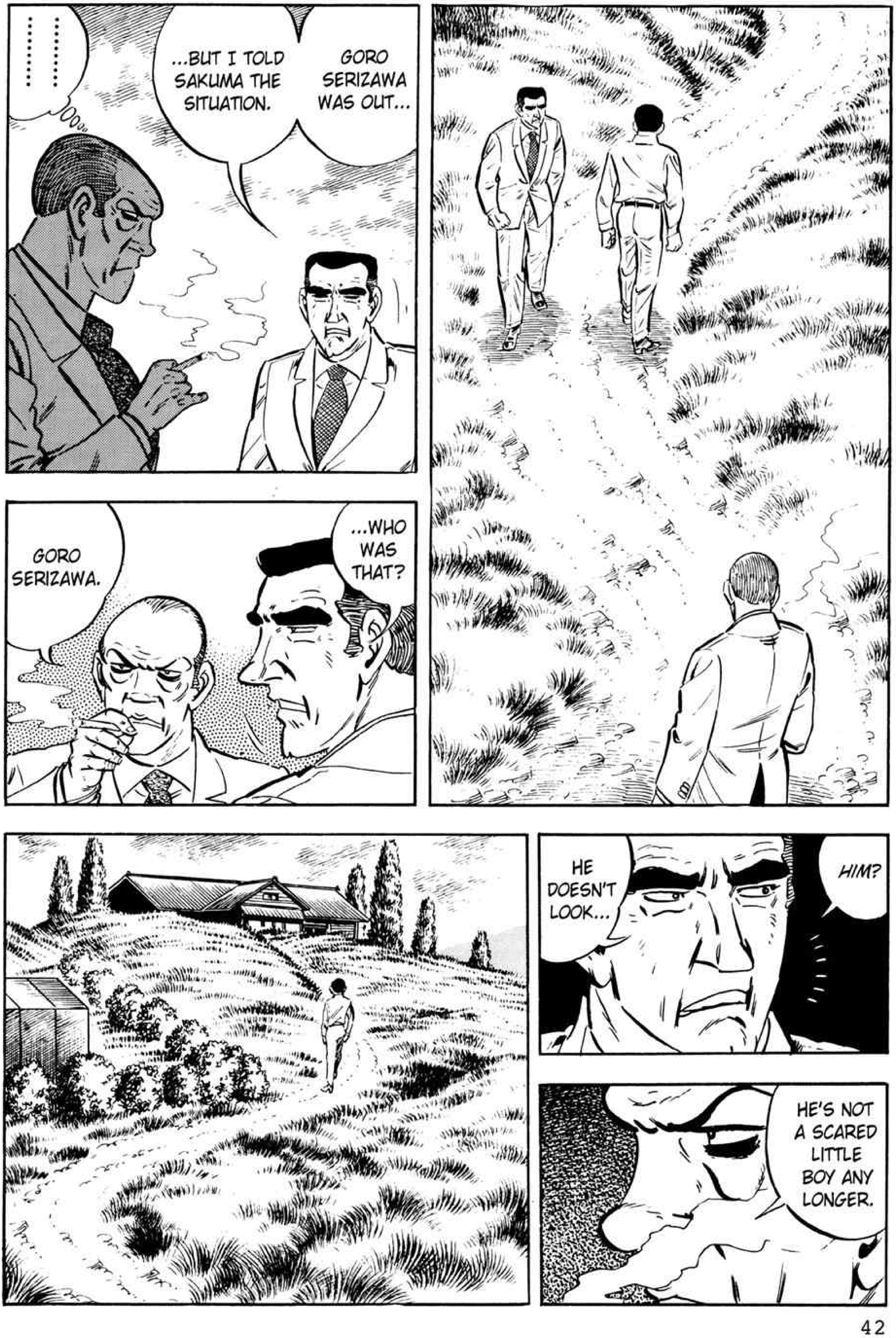

日本社会
稲次郎氏
民主党
日本、敗れる
世界柔道選手権
ヘーシンク（オランダ）が優勝
神永、古賀、曽根を連破
ソ連人間衛星船 各国の反響
大鵬、3連勝
巨人ついに優勝
誕生した青年横綱
1961

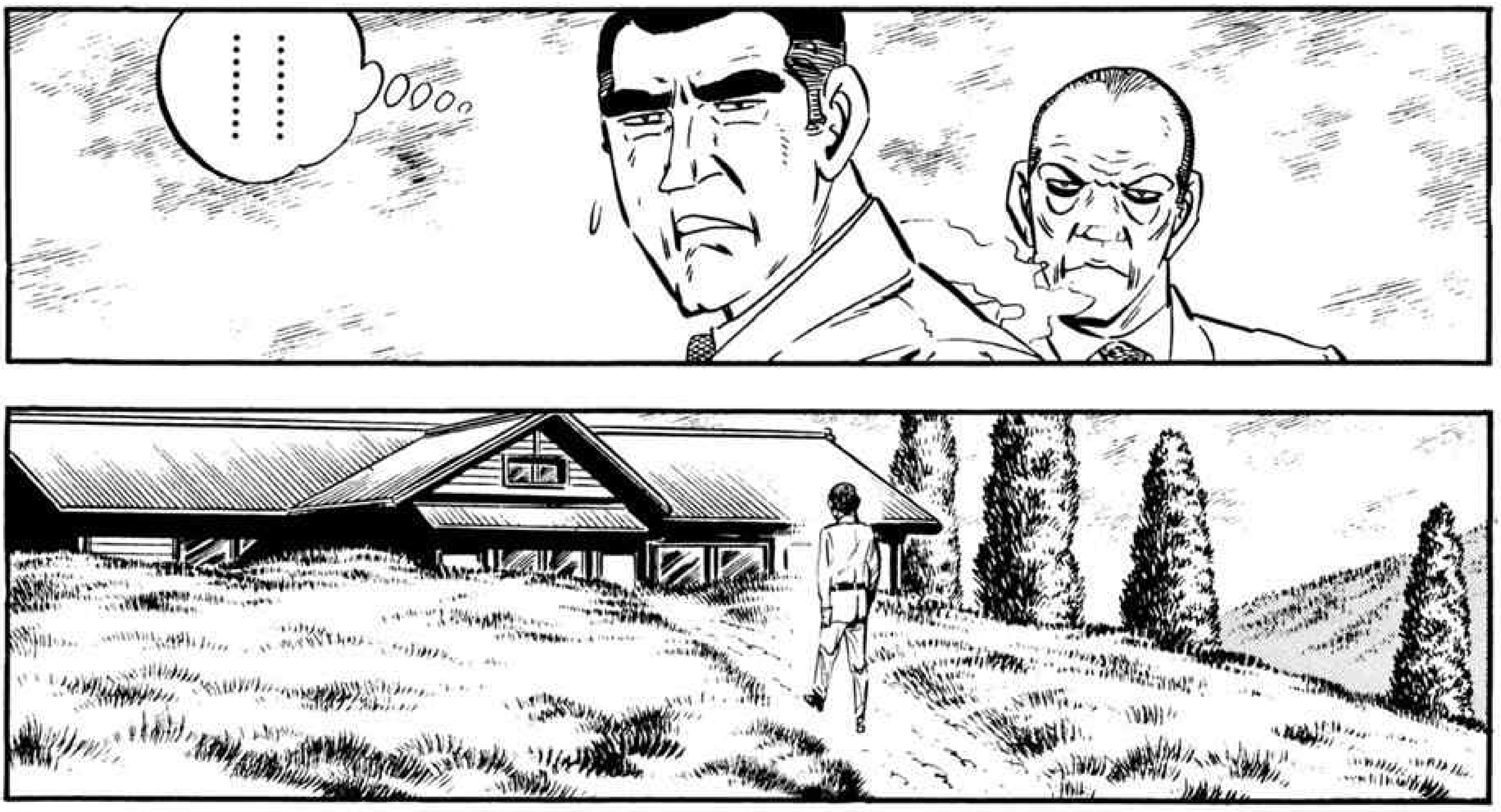

June, Kanagawa Prefecture
RRRRRRRRMMMMMMMM
WELL, IN NINE HOURS IT'LL BE OVER...
...ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.
......
IF IT HAD HAPPENED TODAY...IF WE COULD START THE CLOCK FROM NOW...WE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN TO THE BOTTOM OF IT, SHUKIRO.
IT WASN'T US, IT WASN'T THE CASE...JUST TOO MANY THINGS IN THE WORLD THESE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS...
......
...TOO MANY THINGS BETWEEN US AND THE TRUTH.
JUST FORGET IT...
......


KTUNK
TNK

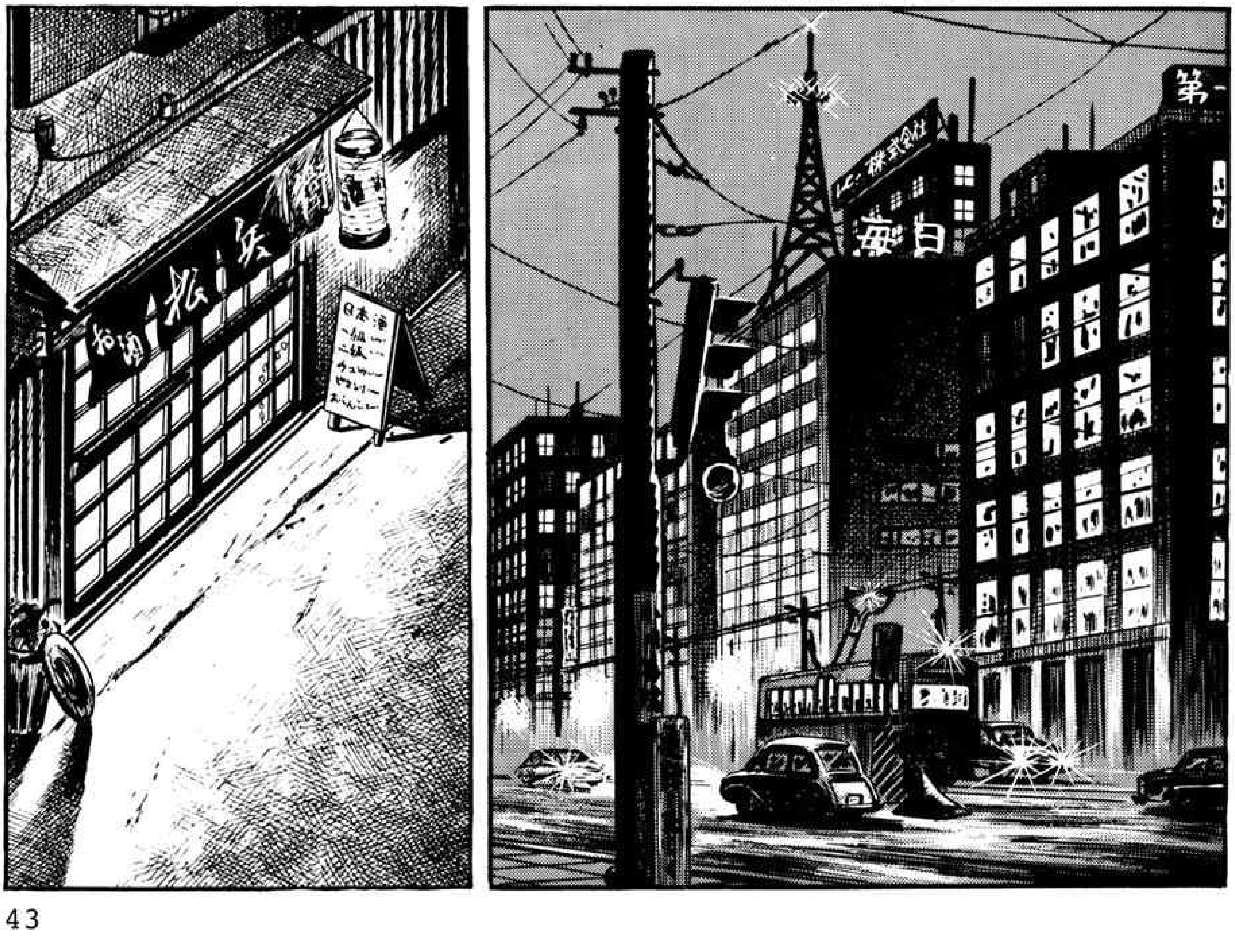

IT'S SAKUMA, ALL RIGHT.
HIS RECORDS SAY HE'S 78.
WELL, HE CAME OUT OF THE ARMY IN BETTER HEALTH THAN MOST. THEY KEPT HIM IN JAPAN... TOP SNIPING INSTRUCTOR.
GOTO... CAN YOU LET HIM KNOW THAT THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ...
...ENDS TODAY...?
I WILL, BUT...

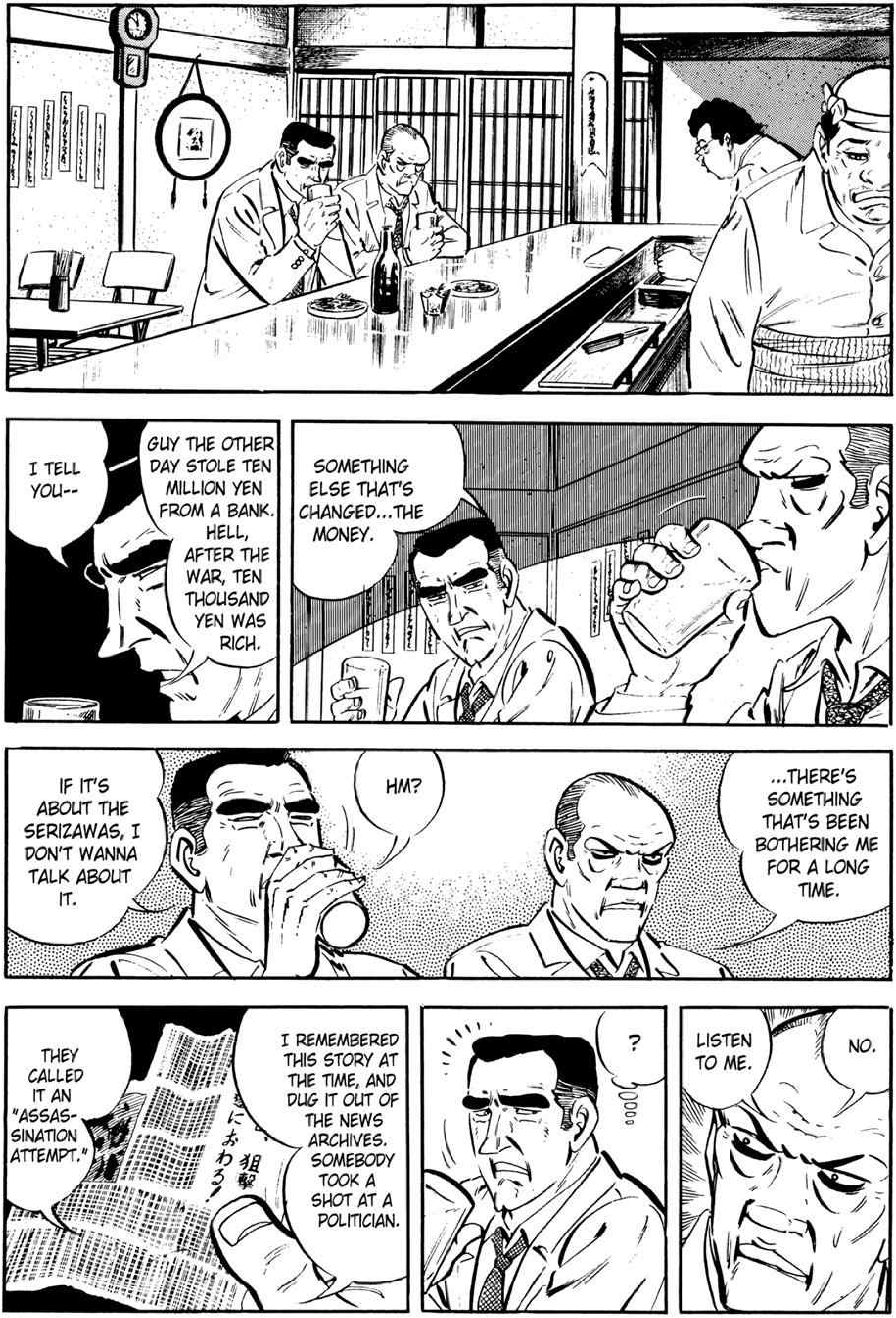


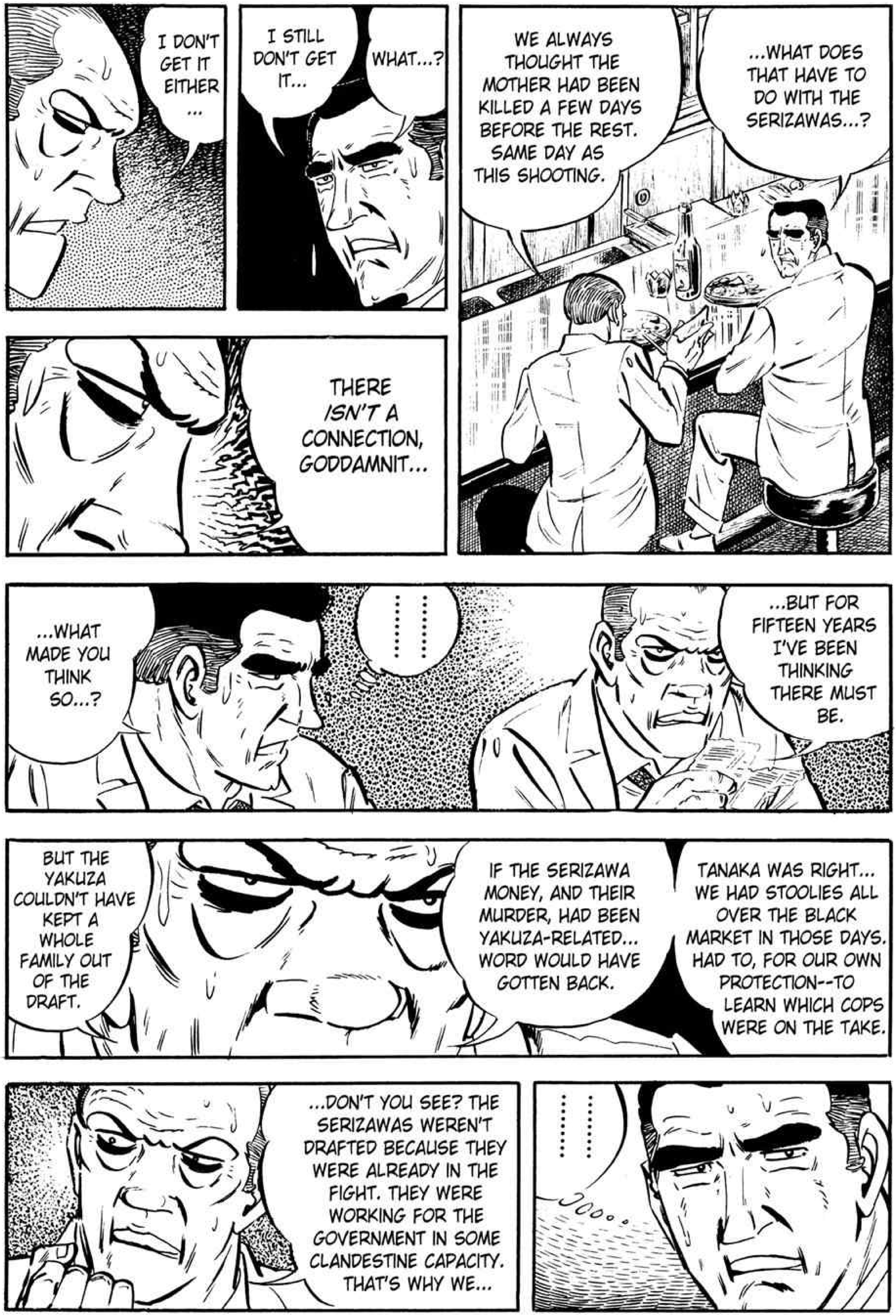

GORO SERIZAWA WAS OUT...
...BUT I TOLD SAKUMA THE SITUATION.
......
...WHO WAS THAT?
GORO SERIZAWA.
HIM?
HE DOESN'T LOOK...
HE'S NOT A SCARED LITTLE BOY ANY LONGER.

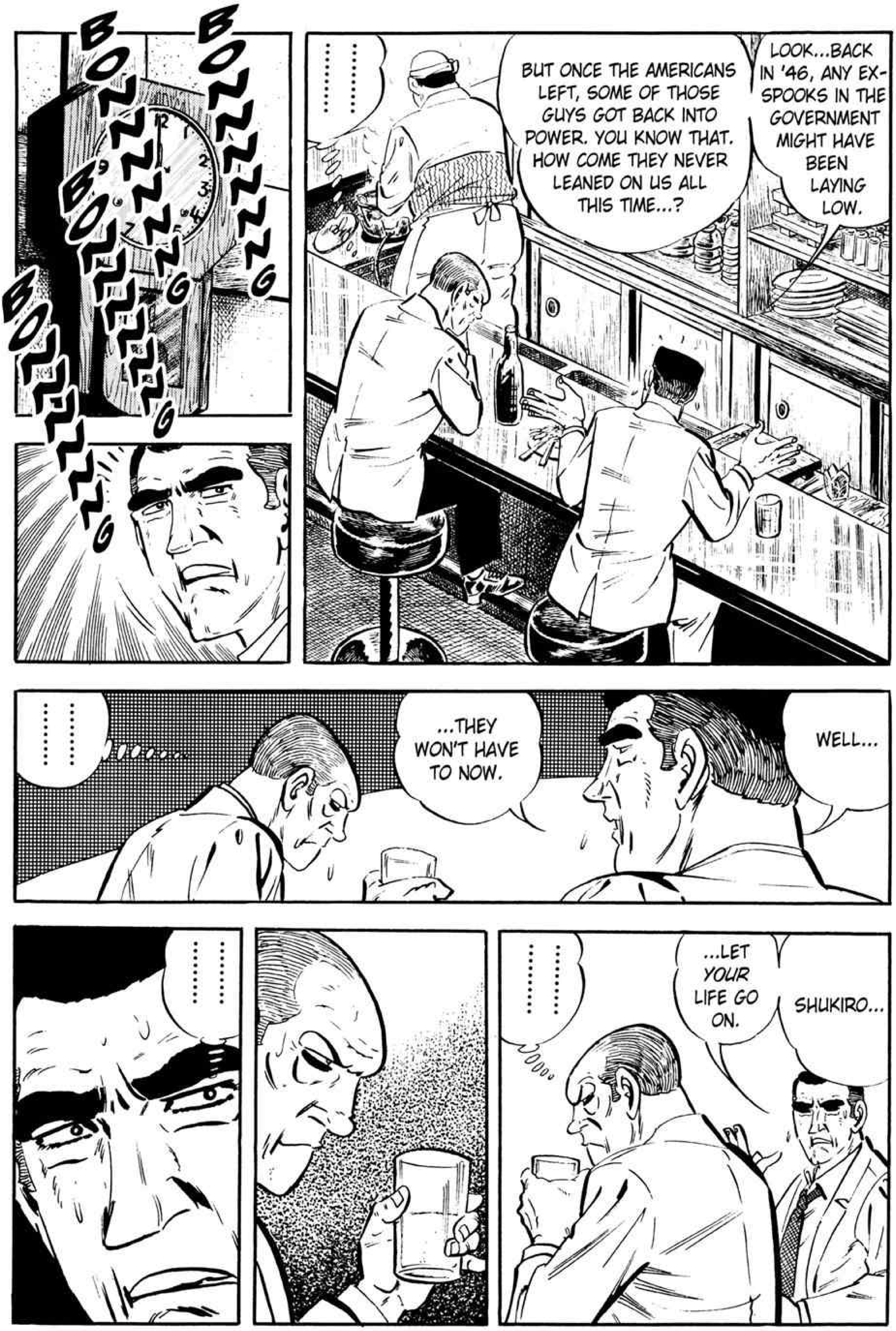


PART 6 LAST HOUR

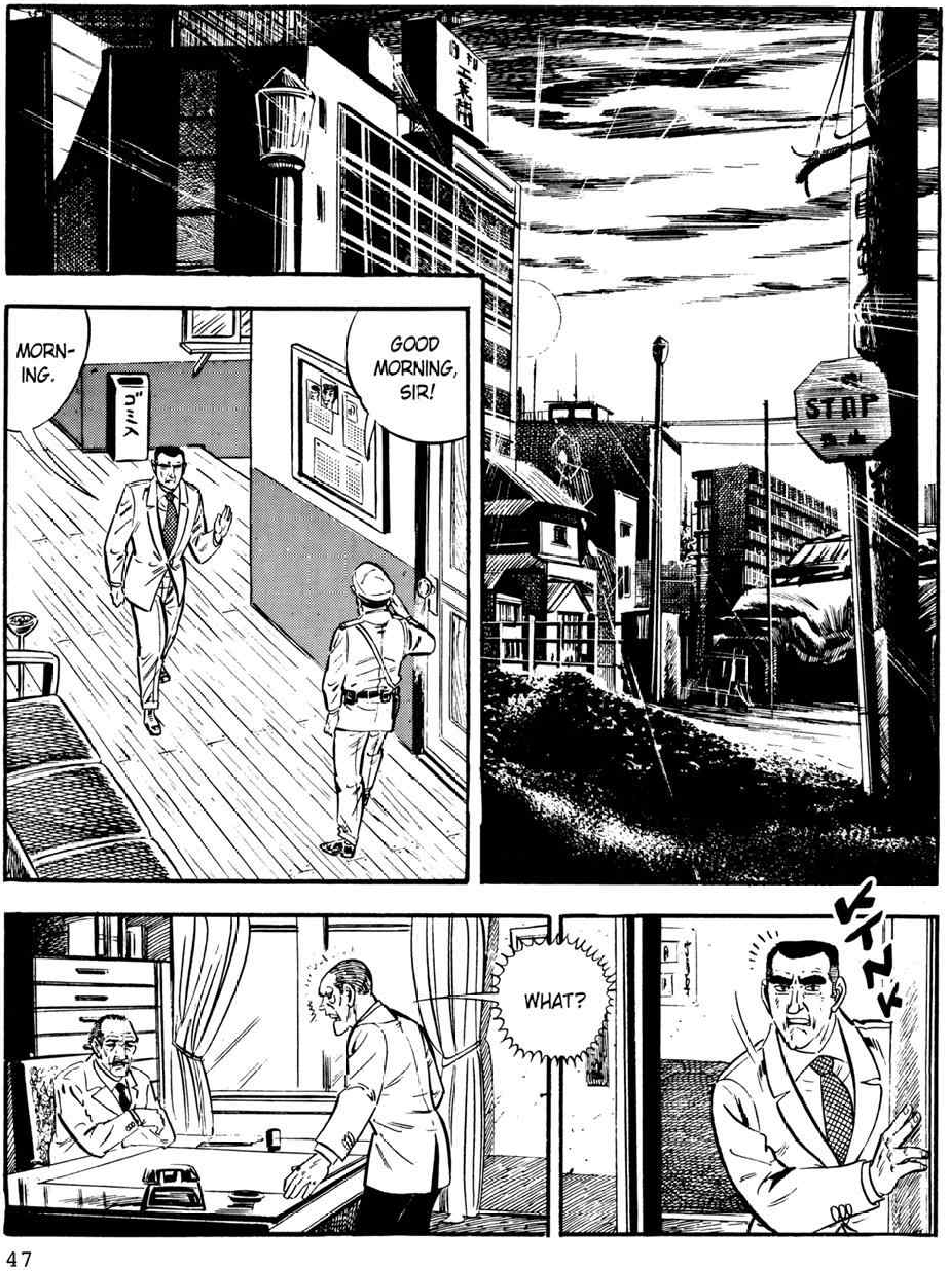

第一
株式会社
お酒 松兵衛
日本酒
一級
二級
ウイスキー
ヤキトリ
おでん

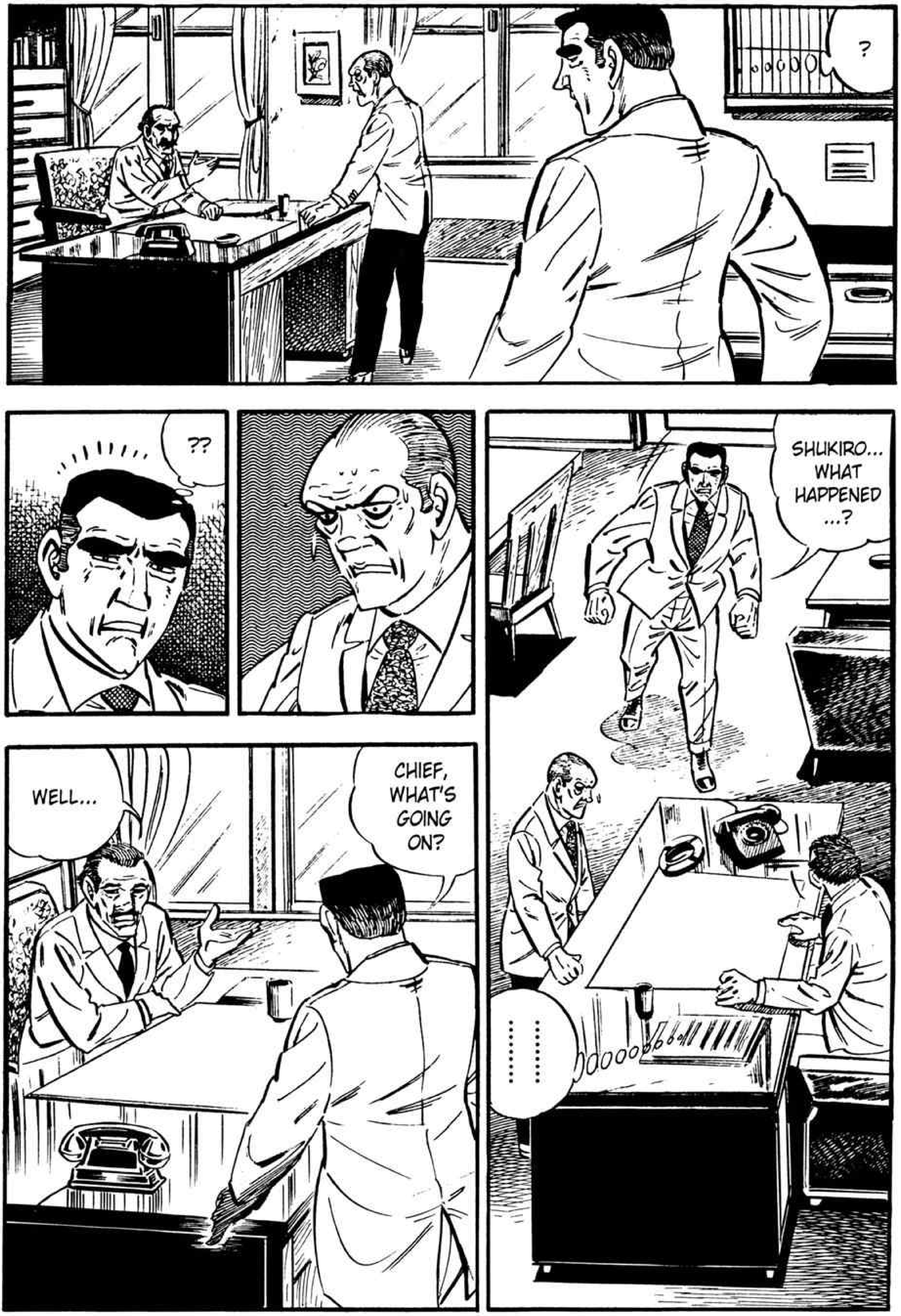

SOMETHING ELSE THAT'S CHANGED...THE MONEY.
I TELL YOU--
GUY THE OTHER DAY STOLE TEN MILLION YEN FROM A BANK. HELL, AFTER THE WAR, TEN THOUSAND YEN WAS RICH.
...THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME FOR A LONG TIME.
HM?
IF IT'S ABOUT THE SERIZAWAS, I DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT IT.
NO.
LISTEN TO ME.
?
I REMEMBERED THIS STORY AT THE TIME, AND DUG IT OUT OF THE NEWS ARCHIVES. SOMEBODY TOOK A SHOT AT A POLITICIAN.
におわる！
狙撃
THEY CALLED IT AN "ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT."

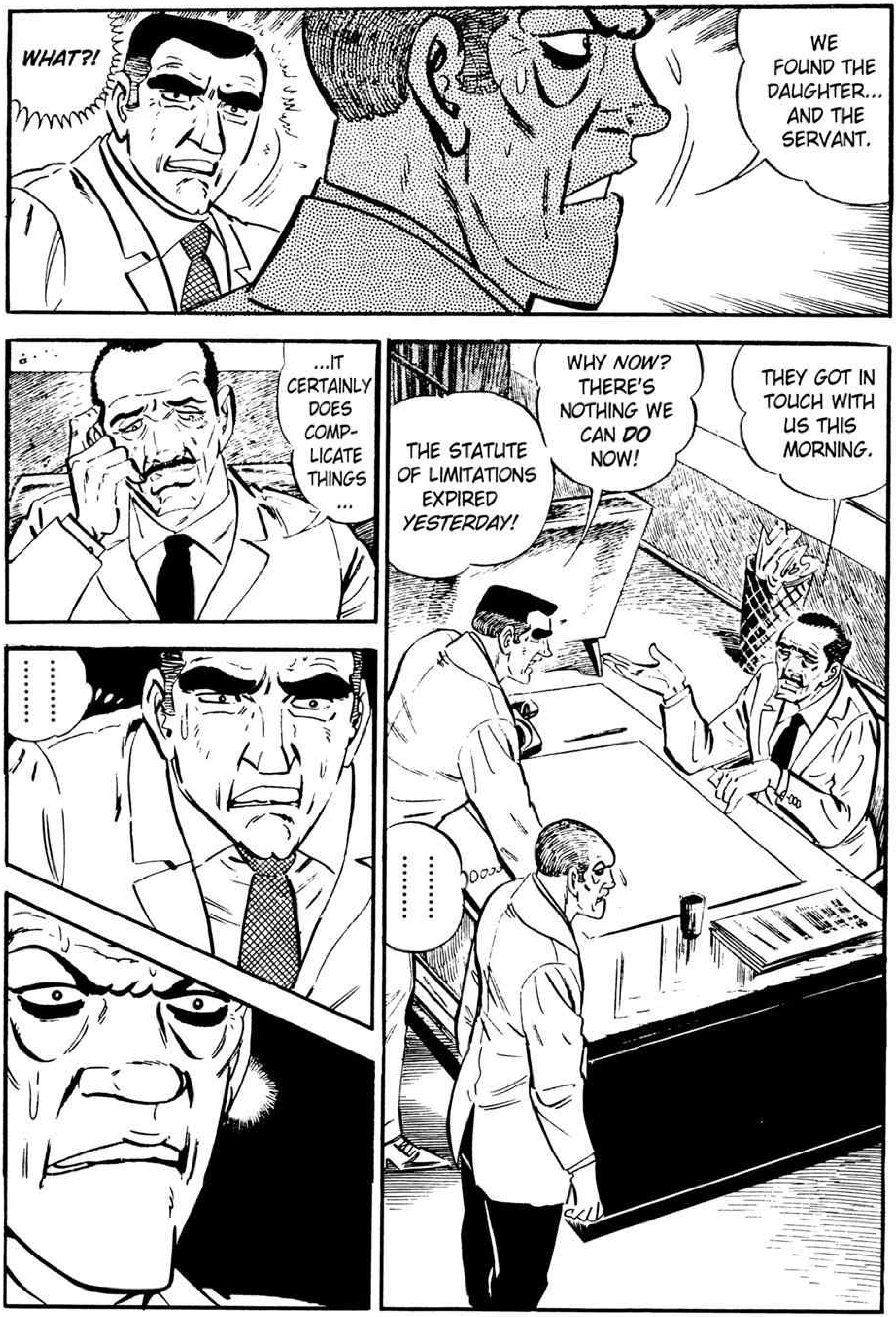

WE ALWAYS THOUGHT THE MOTHER HAD BEEN KILLED A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE REST. SAME DAY AS THIS SHOOTING.
...WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THE SERIZAWAS...?
WHAT...?
I STILL DON'T GET IT...
I DON'T GET IT EITHER ...
THERE *ISN'T* A CONNECTION, GODDAMNIT...
...BUT FOR FIFTEEN YEARS I'VE BEEN THINKING THERE MUST BE.
......
...WHAT MADE YOU THINK SO...?
TANAKA WAS RIGHT... WE HAD STOOLIES ALL OVER THE BLACK MARKET IN THOSE DAYS. HAD TO, FOR OUR OWN PROTECTION--TO LEARN WHICH COPS WERE ON THE TAKE.
IF THE SERIZAWA MONEY, AND THEIR MURDER, HAD BEEN YAKUZA-RELATED... WORD WOULD HAVE GOTTEN BACK.
BUT THE YAKUZA COULDN'T HAVE KEPT A WHOLE FAMILY OUT OF THE DRAFT.
......
...DON'T YOU SEE? THE SERIZAWAS WEREN'T DRAFTED BECAUSE THEY WERE ALREADY IN THE FIGHT. THEY WERE WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT IN SOME CLANDESTINE CAPACITY. THAT'S WHY WE...

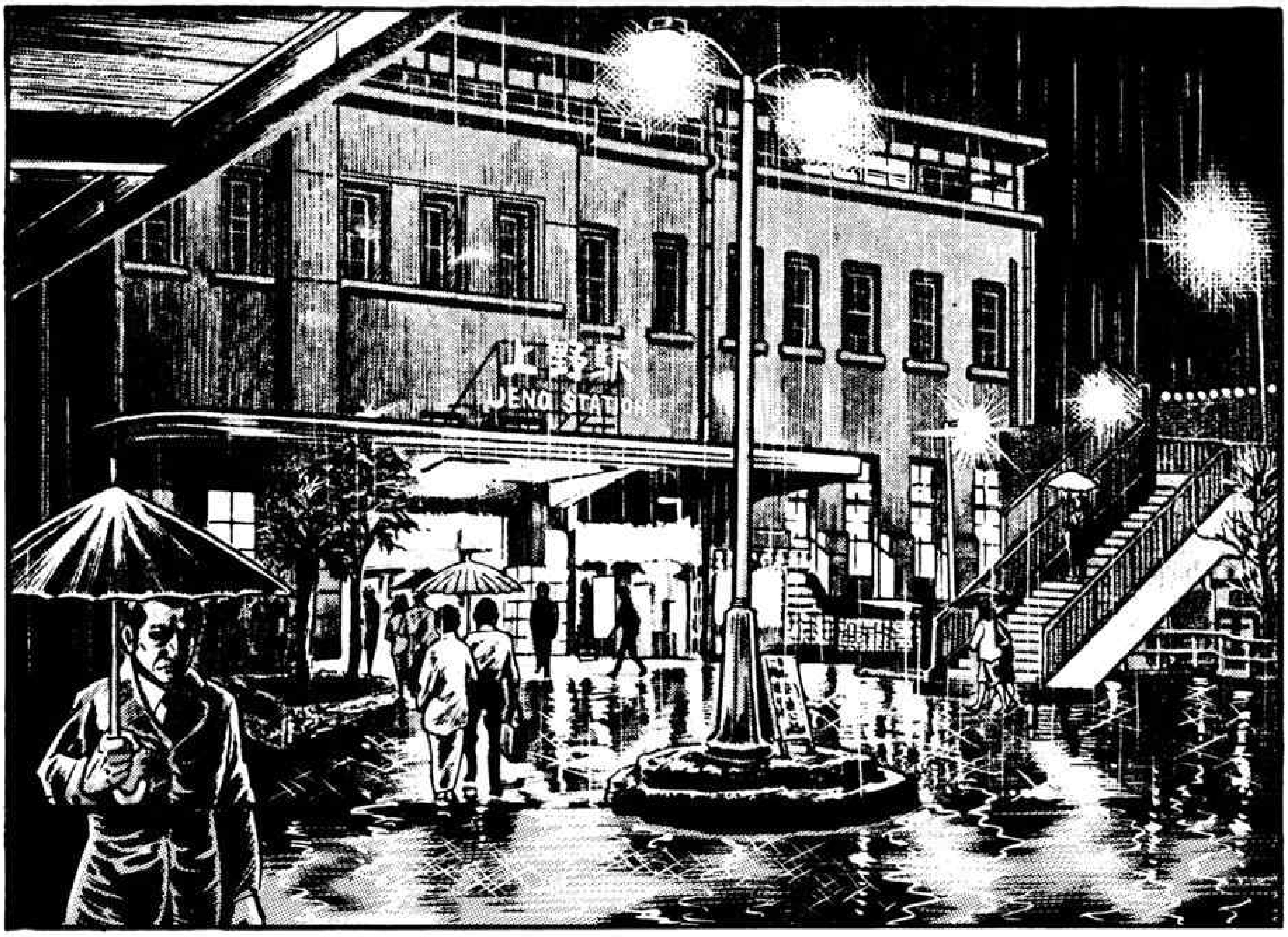

LOOK...BACK IN '46, ANY EX-SPOOKS IN THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE BEEN LAYING LOW.
BUT ONCE THE AMERICANS LEFT, SOME OF THOSE GUYS GOT BACK INTO POWER. YOU KNOW THAT. HOW COME THEY NEVER LEANED ON US ALL THIS TIME...?
......
BONNNNNNG
BONNNNNNG
BONNNNNNG
BONNNNNNG
WELL...
...THEY WON'T HAVE TO NOW.
......
SHUKIRO...
...LET *YOUR* LIFE GO ON.
......
......

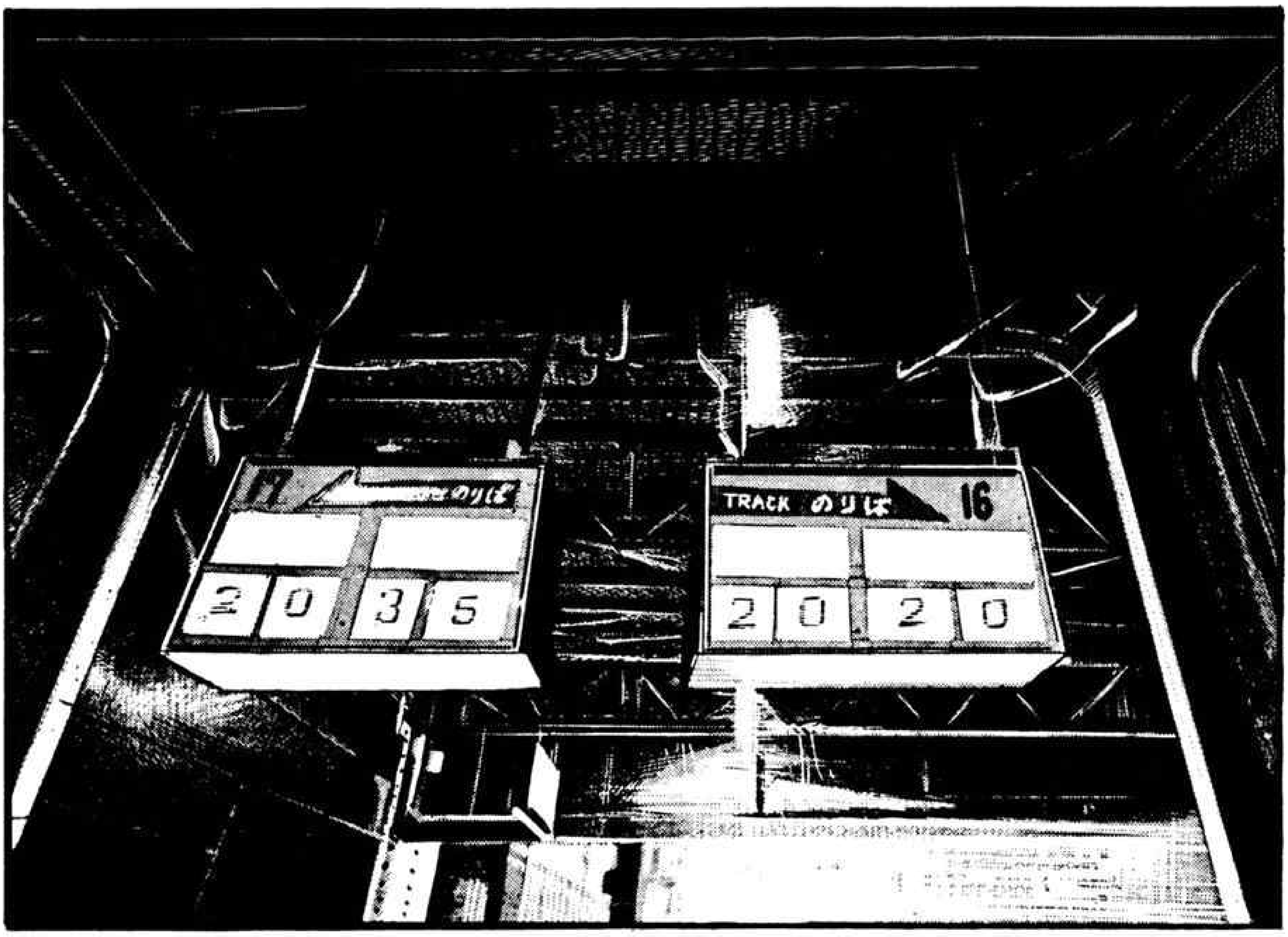
PART 7 HIROKO SERIZAWA

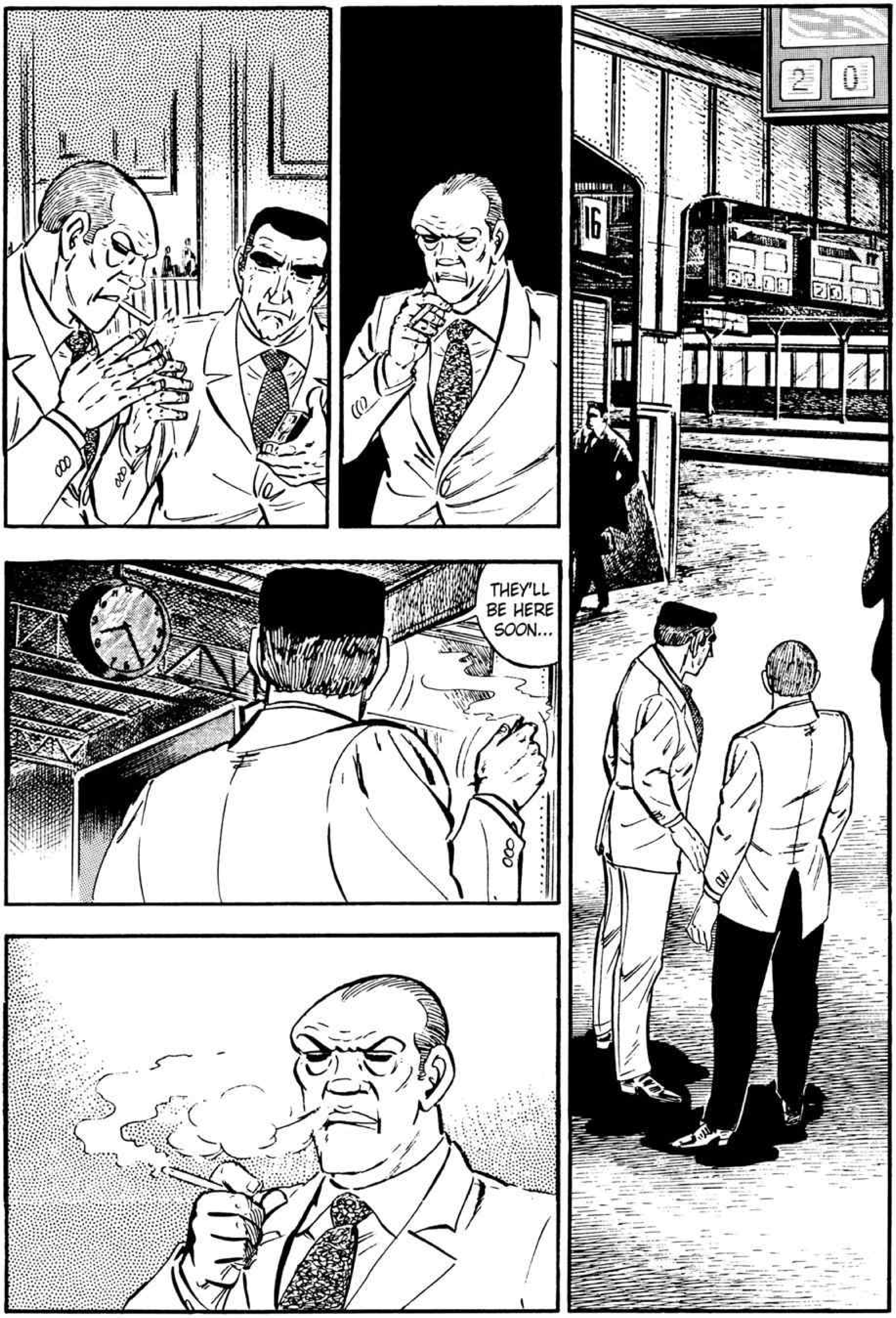

STOP
GOOD MORNING, SIR!
MORNING.
WHAT?

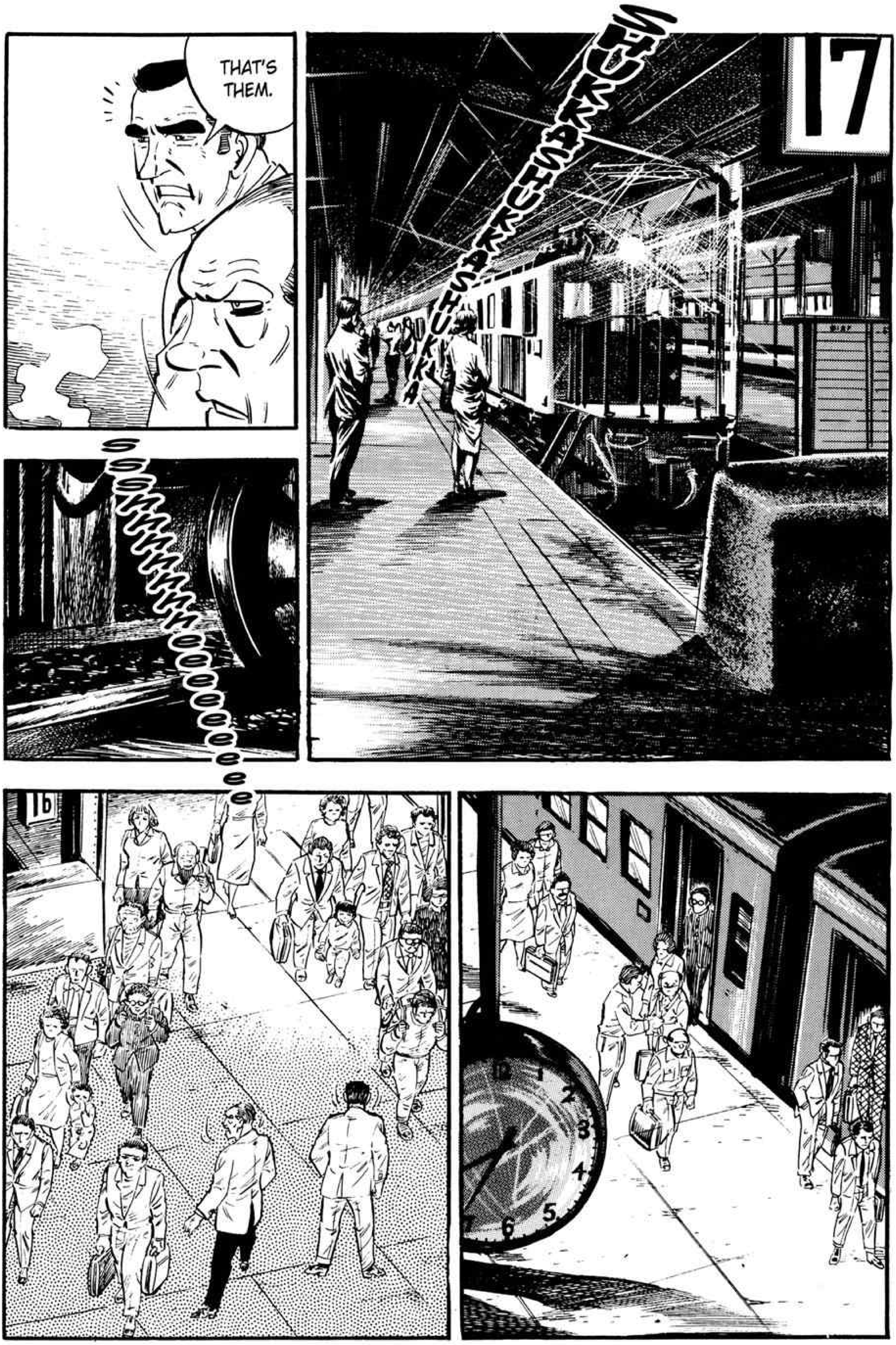

?
SHUKIRO... WHAT HAPPENED ...?
......
??
CHIEF, WHAT'S GOING ON?
WELL...

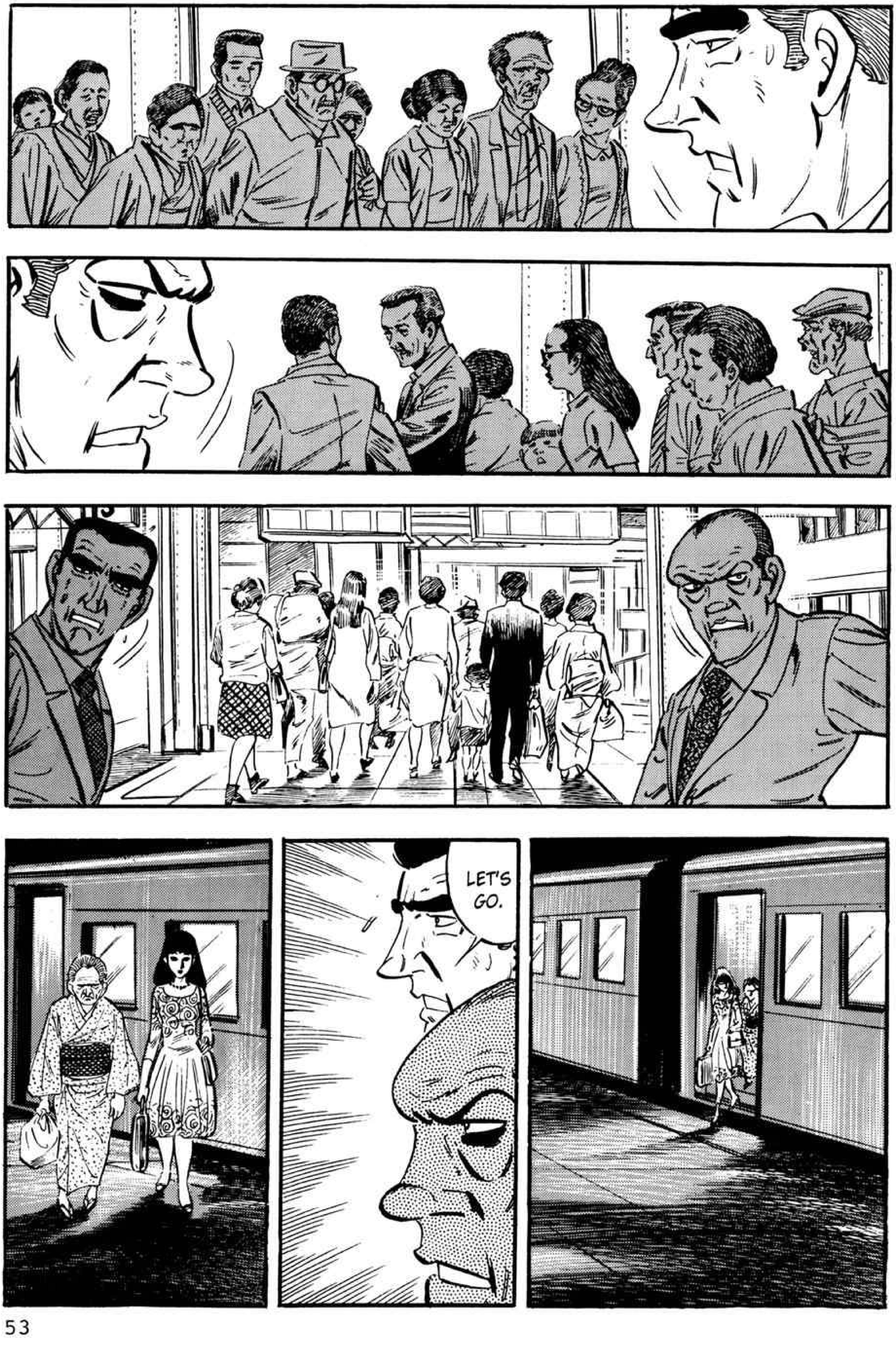

WE FOUND THE DAUGHTER... AND THE SERVANT.
WHAT?!
THEY GOT IN TOUCH WITH US THIS MORNING.
WHY *NOW*? THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN ***DO*** NOW!
THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS EXPIRED *YESTERDAY!*
...IT CERTAINLY DOES COMPLICATE THINGS ...
......
......

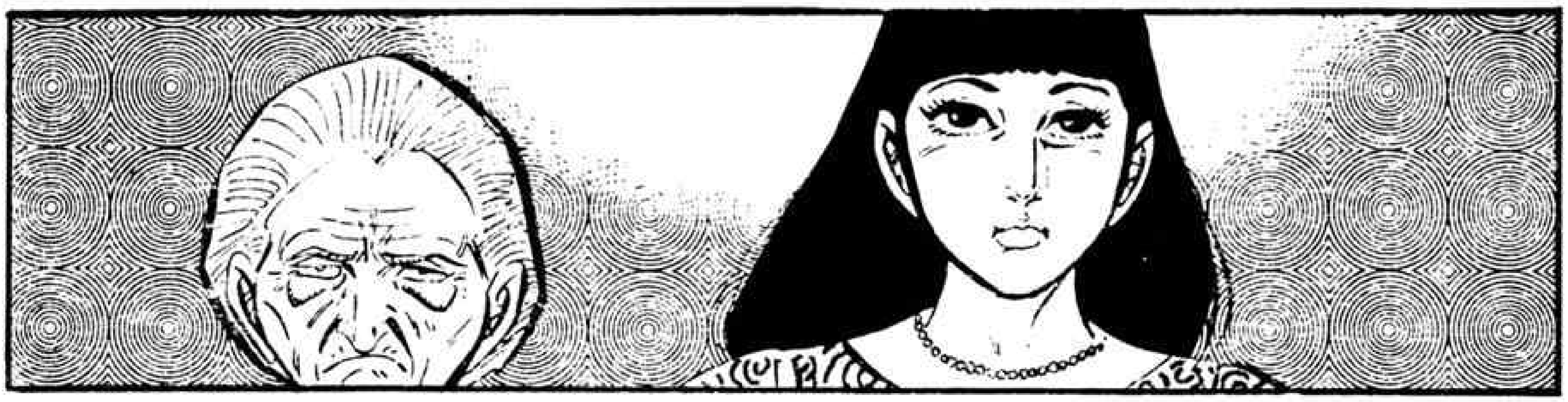

上野駅
UENO STATION

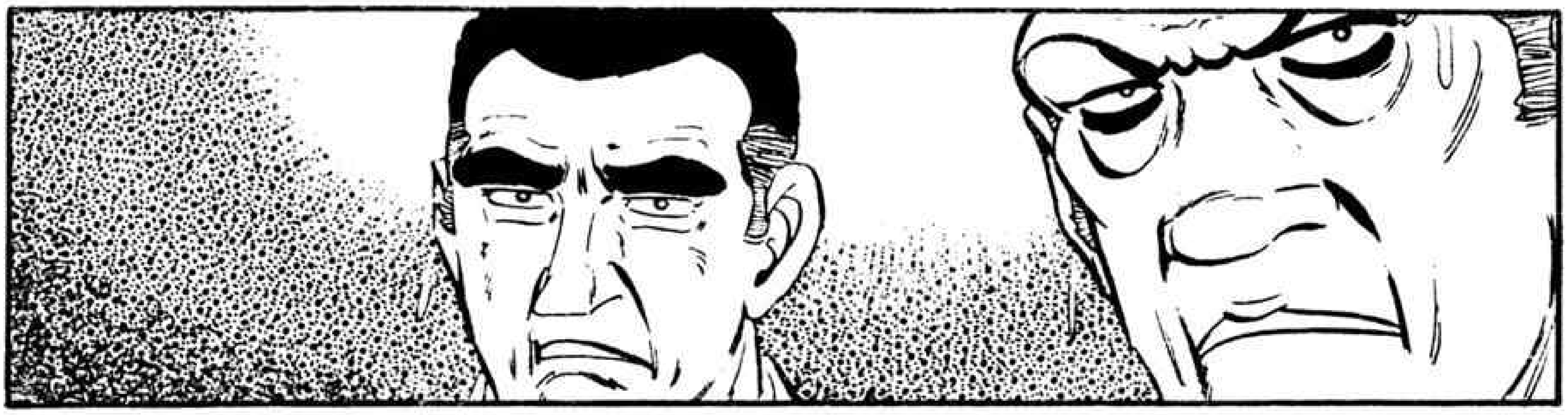

17 のりば
2035
TRACK のりば 16
2020


2 0
16
THEY'LL BE HERE SOON...

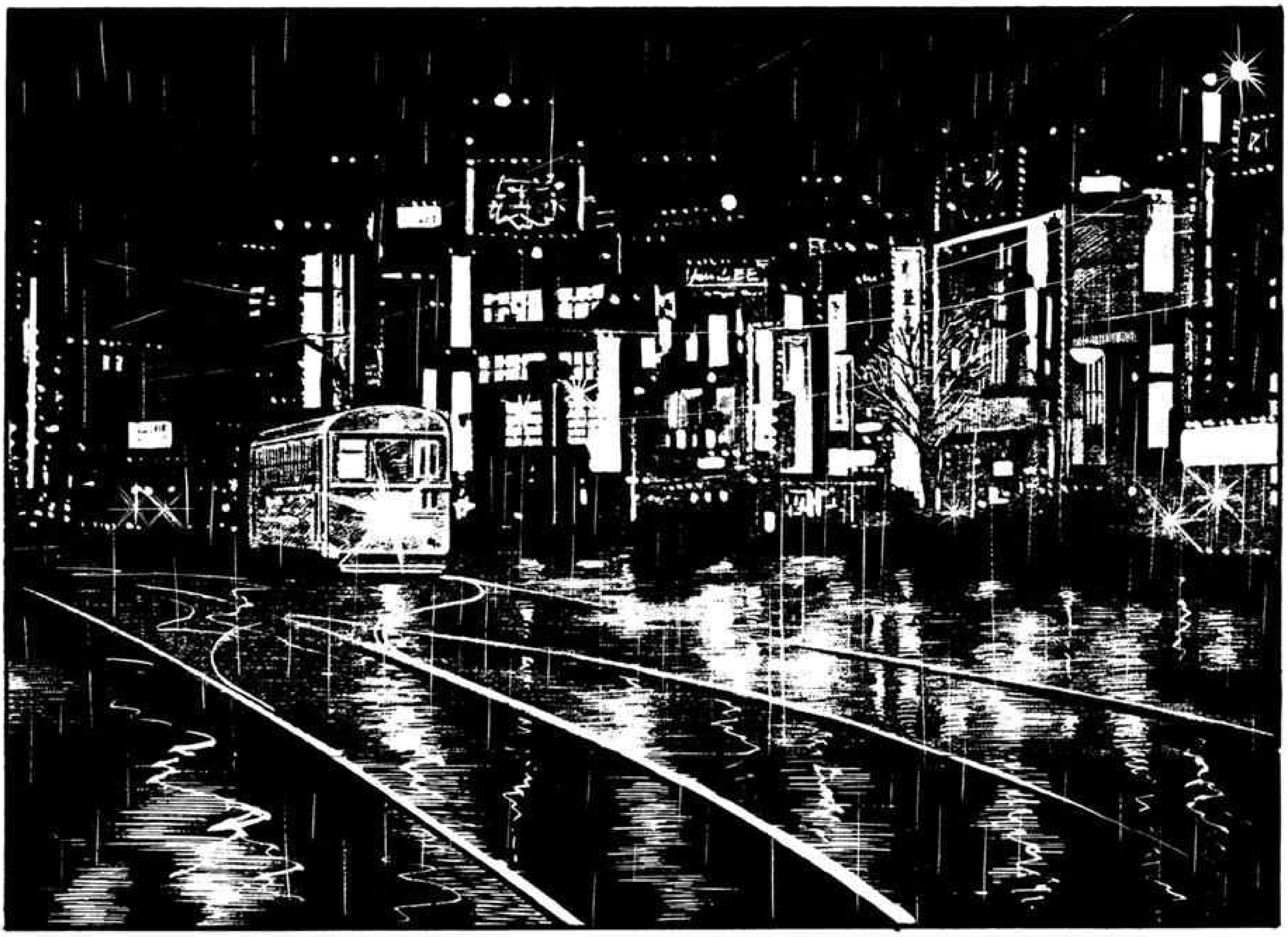

THAT'S THEM.
SHUKKASHUKKASHUKKA
17
SSSHHHHHHeeeeeeeeeee
16

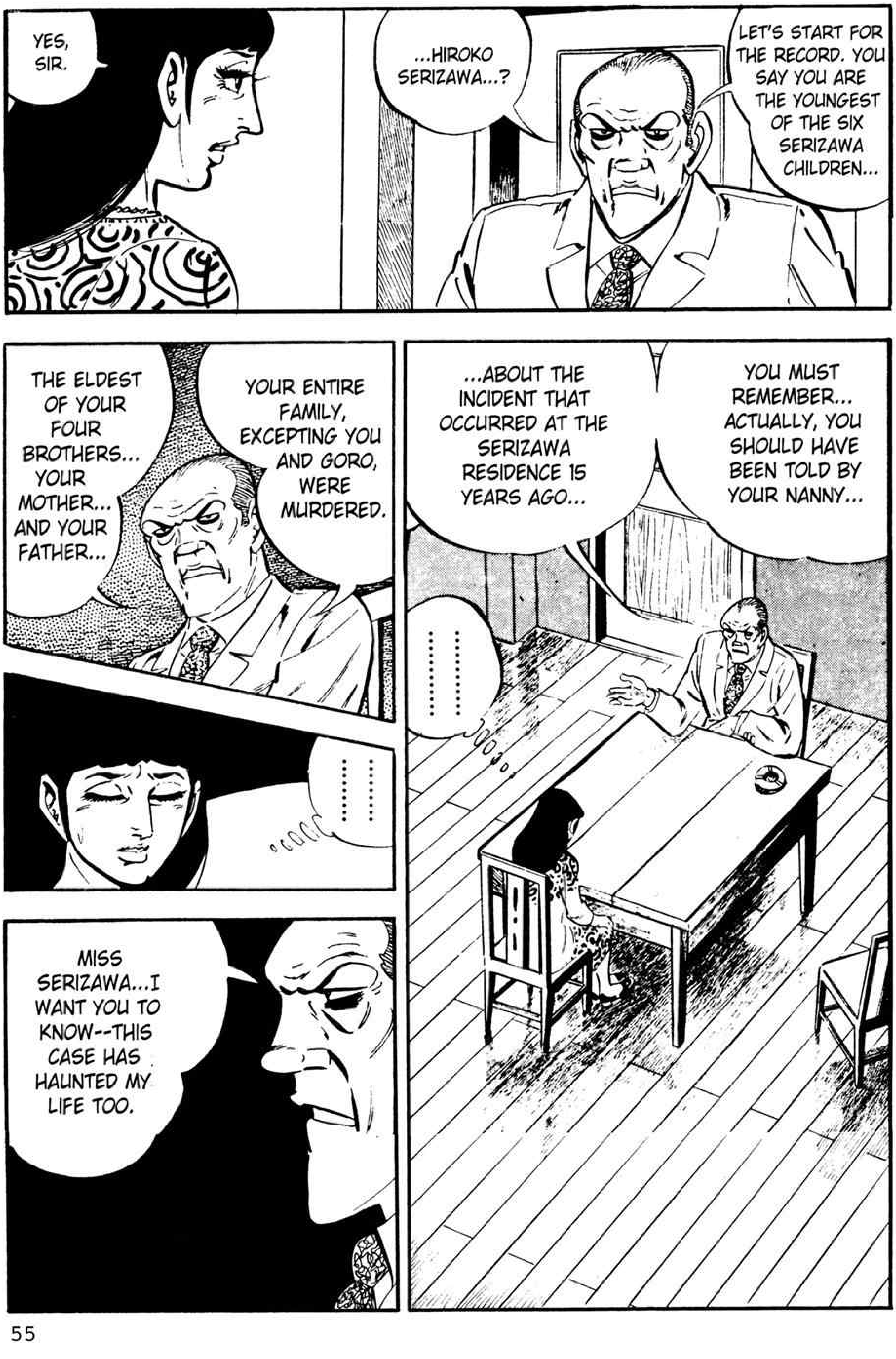

LET'S GO.

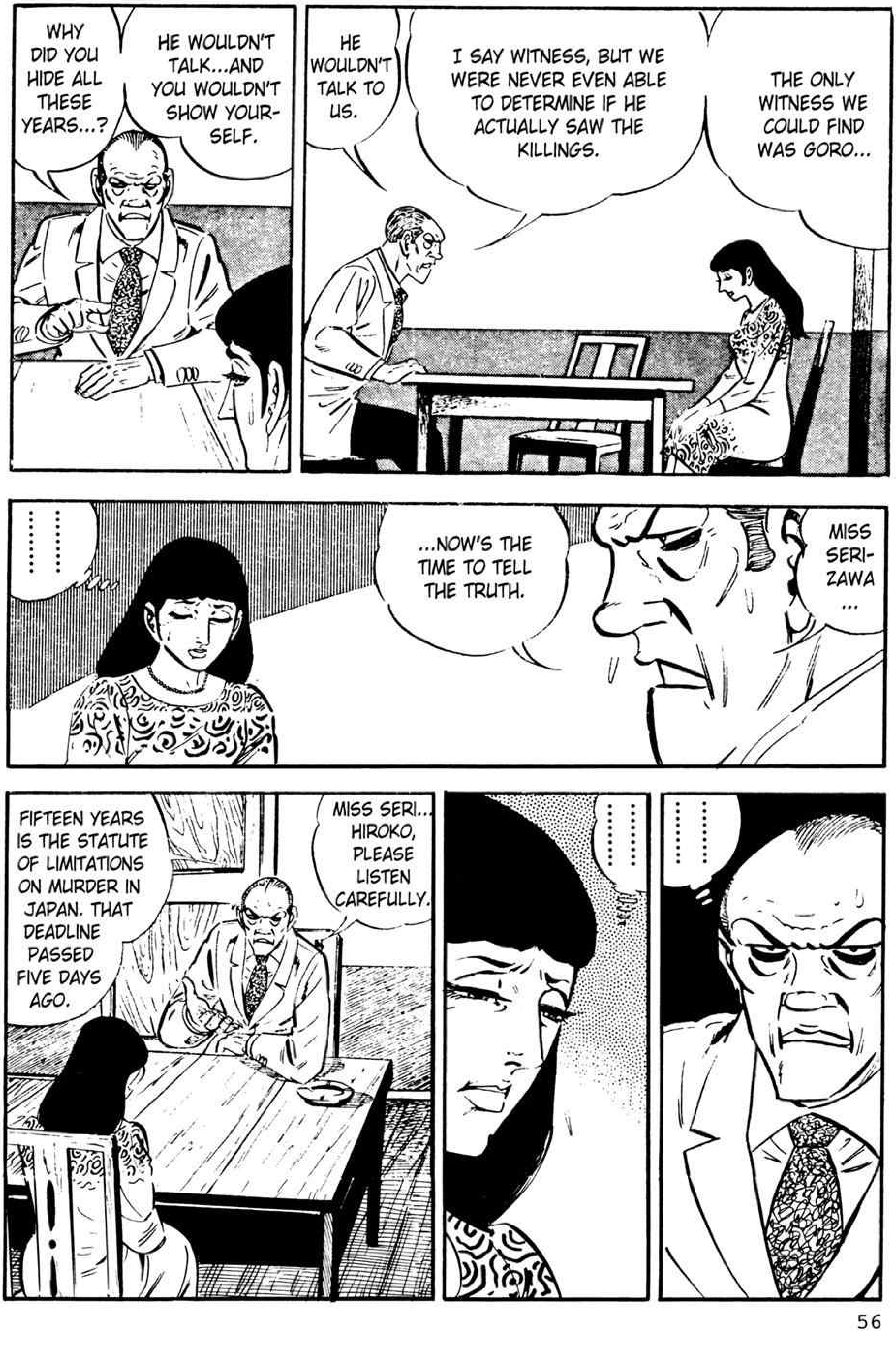


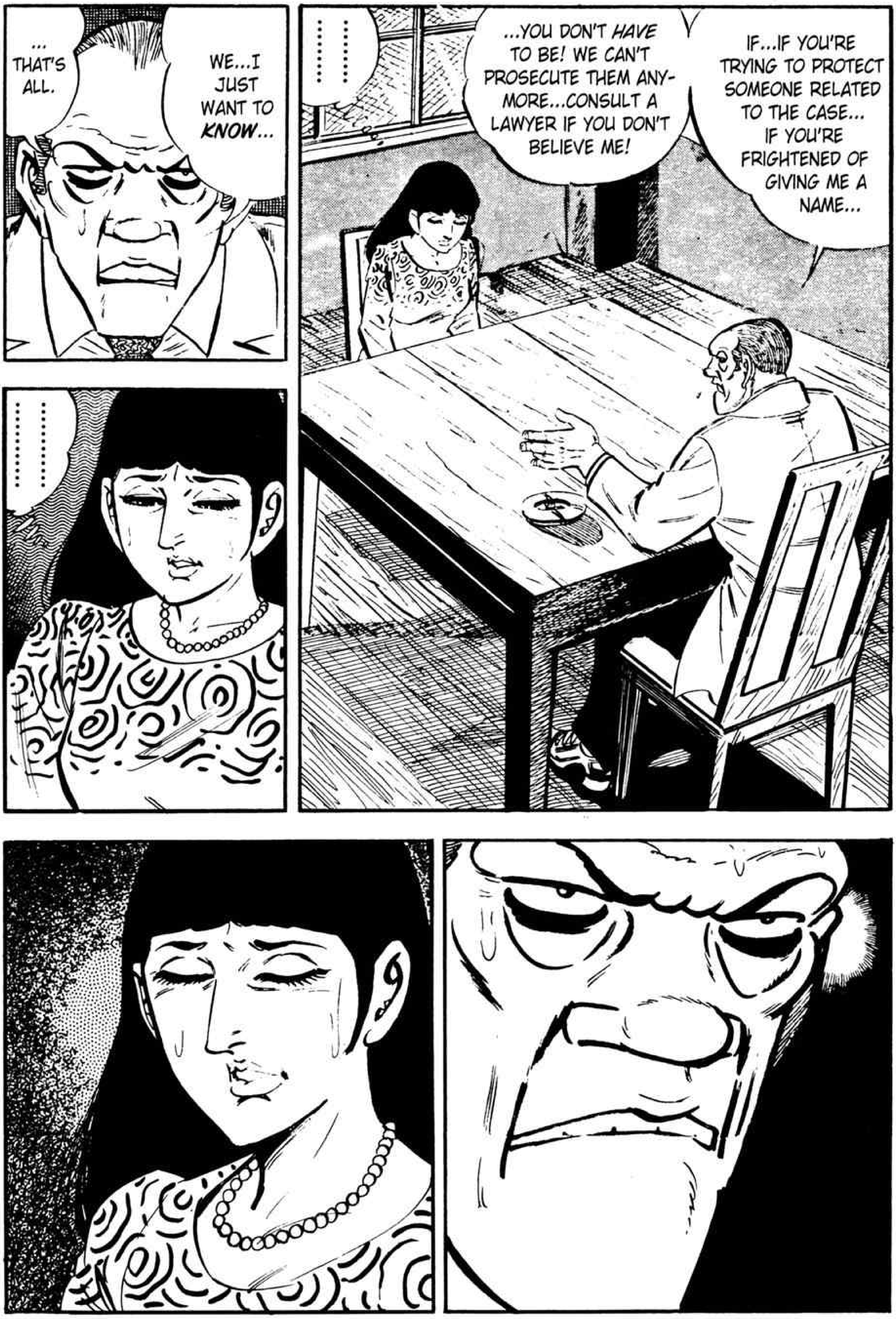


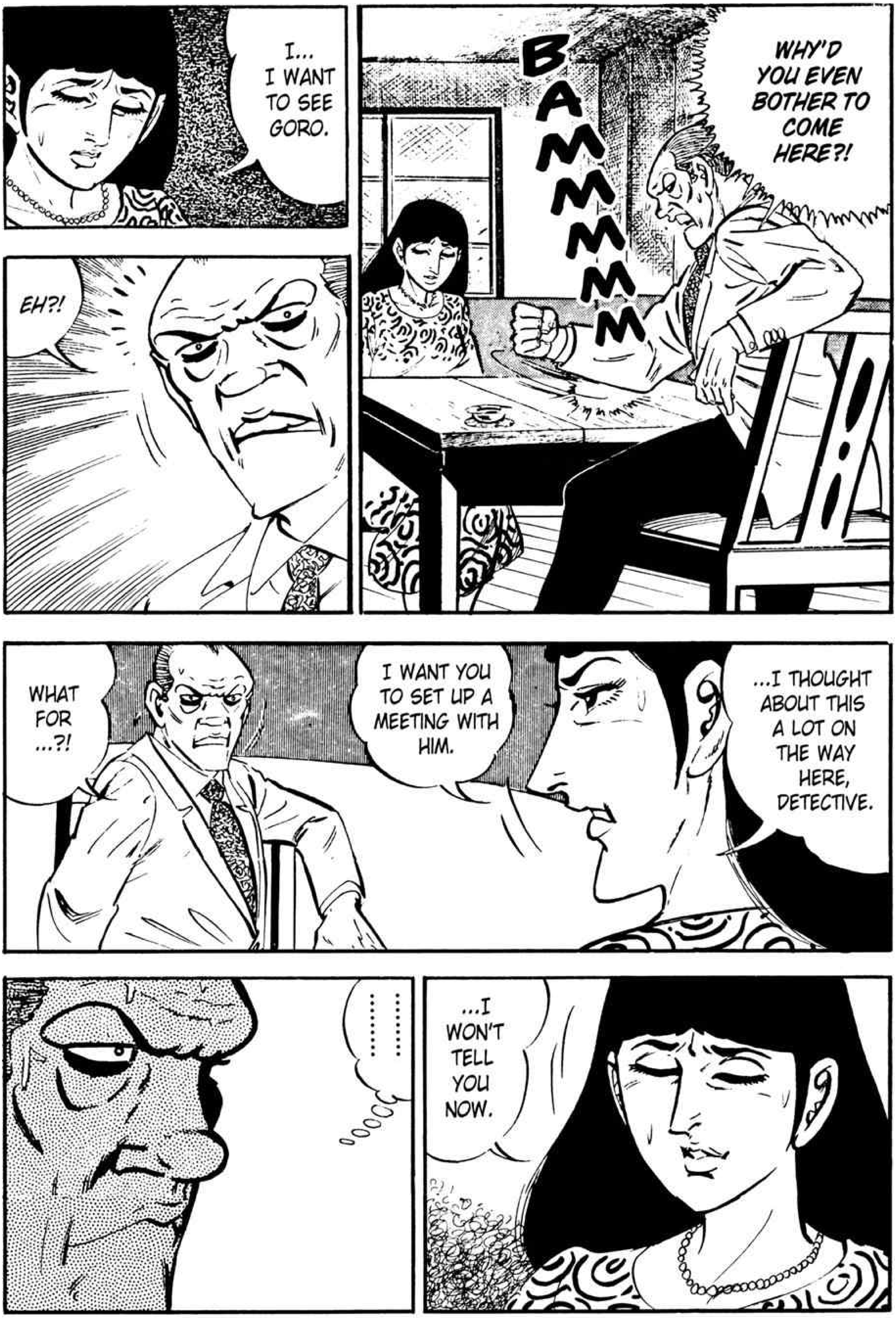
PART 8 THE REQUEST

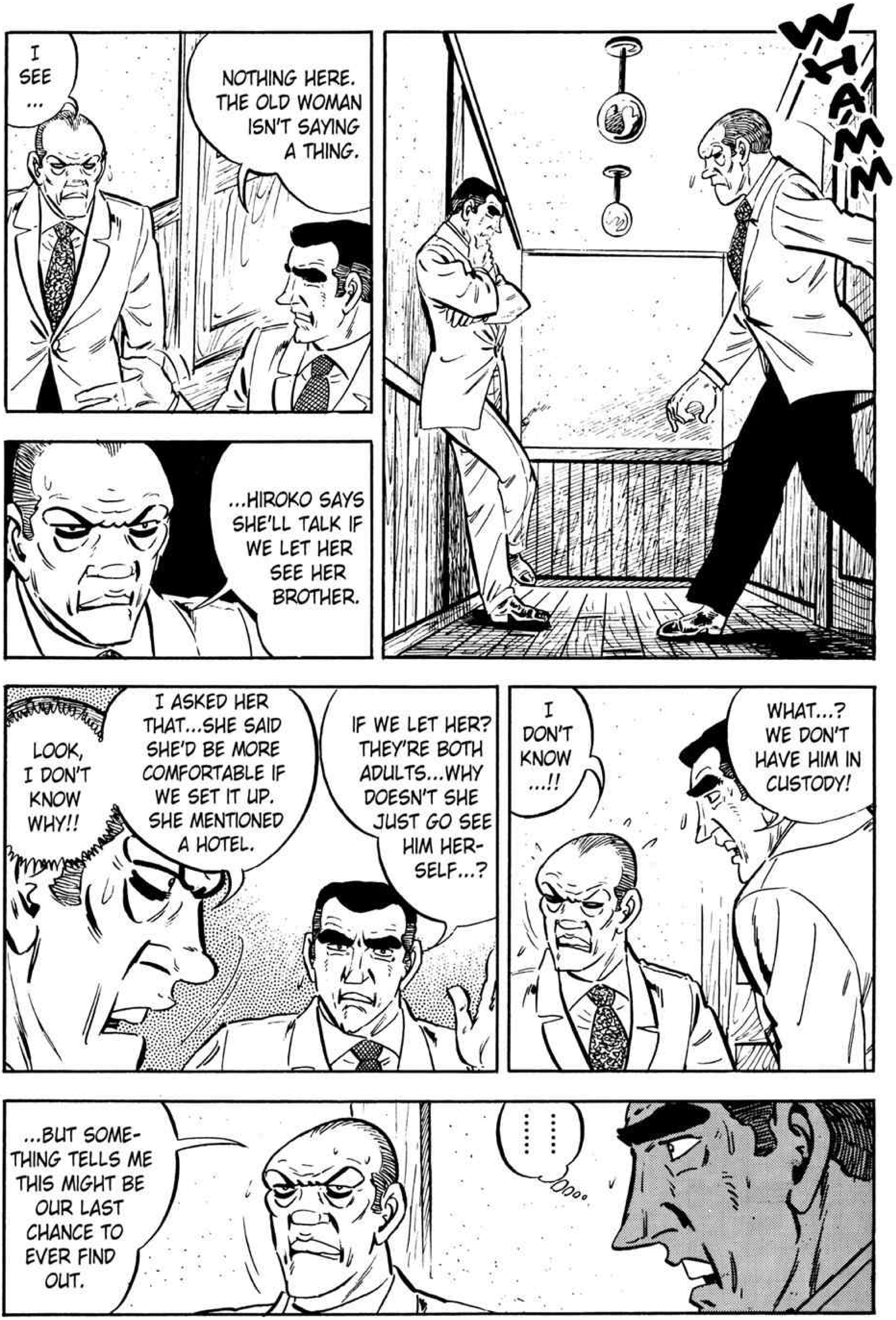


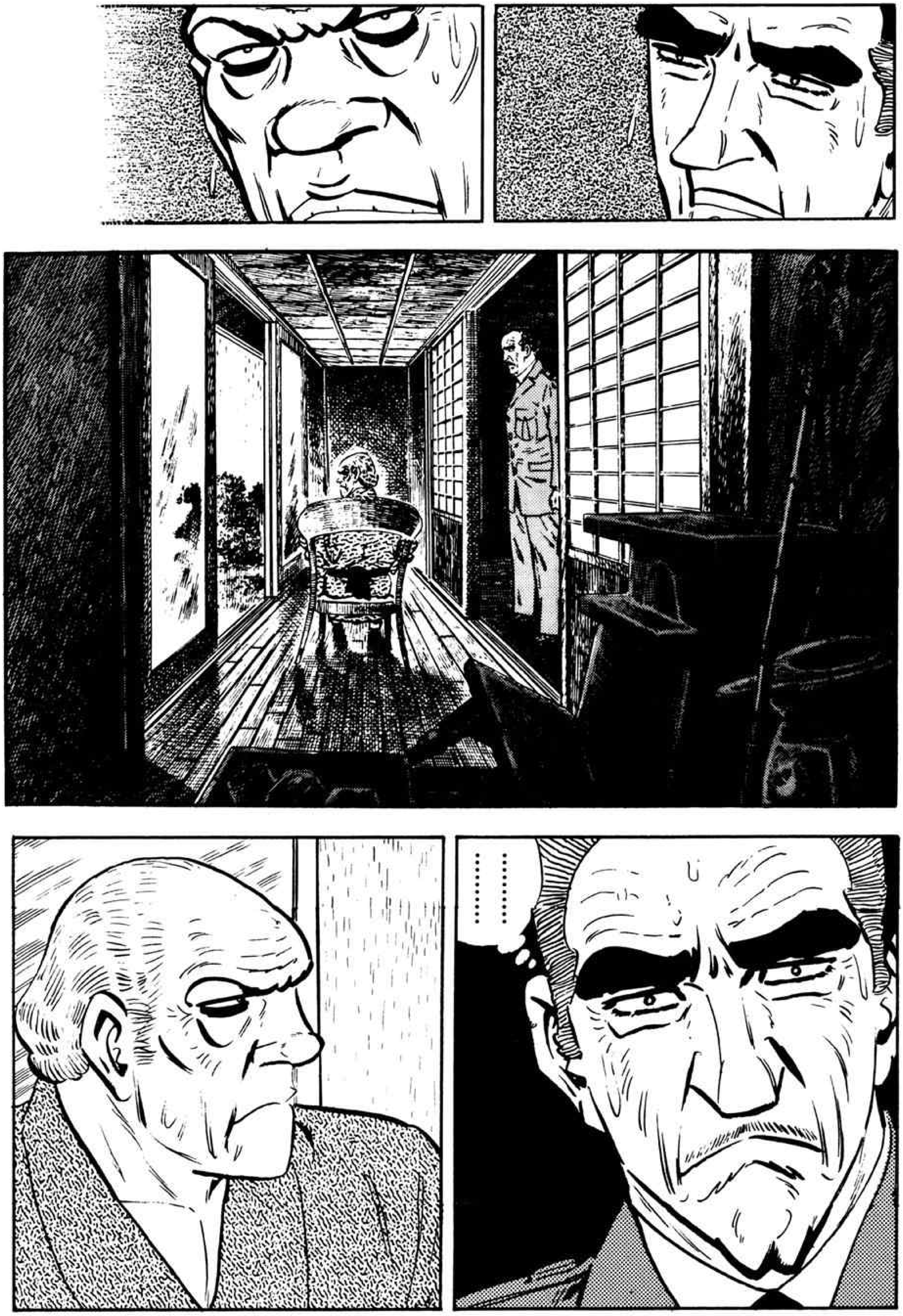

LET'S START FOR THE RECORD. YOU SAY YOU ARE THE YOUNGEST OF THE SIX SERIZAWA CHILDREN...
...HIROKO SERIZAWA...?
YES, SIR.
YOU MUST REMEMBER... ACTUALLY, YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN TOLD BY YOUR NANNY...
...ABOUT THE INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED AT THE SERIZAWA RESIDENCE 15 YEARS AGO...
......
YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY, EXCEPTING YOU AND GORO, WERE MURDERED.
THE ELDEST OF YOUR FOUR BROTHERS... YOUR MOTHER... AND YOUR FATHER...
......
MISS SERIZAWA...I WANT YOU TO KNOW--THIS CASE HAS HAUNTED MY LIFE TOO.

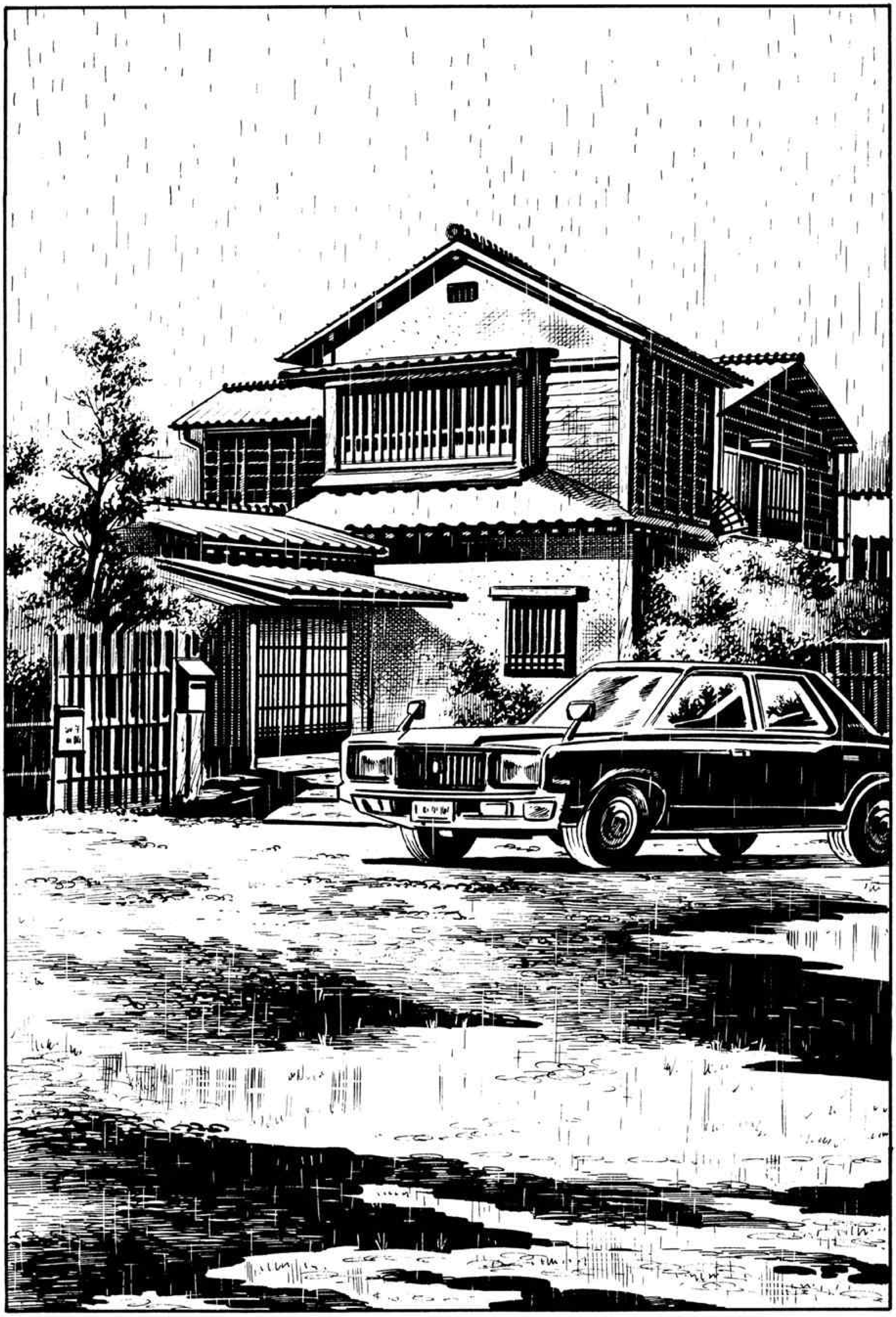

THE ONLY WITNESS WE COULD FIND WAS GORO...
I SAY WITNESS, BUT WE WERE NEVER EVEN ABLE TO DETERMINE IF HE ACTUALLY SAW THE KILLINGS.
HE WOULDN'T TALK TO US.
HE WOULDN'T TALK...AND YOU WOULDN'T SHOW YOURSELF.
WHY DID YOU HIDE ALL THESE YEARS...?
MISS SERIZAWA...
...NOW'S THE TIME TO TELL THE TRUTH.
......
......
......
MISS SERI... HIROKO, PLEASE LISTEN CAREFULLY.
FIFTEEN YEARS IS THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON MURDER IN JAPAN. THAT DEADLINE PASSED FIVE DAYS AGO.

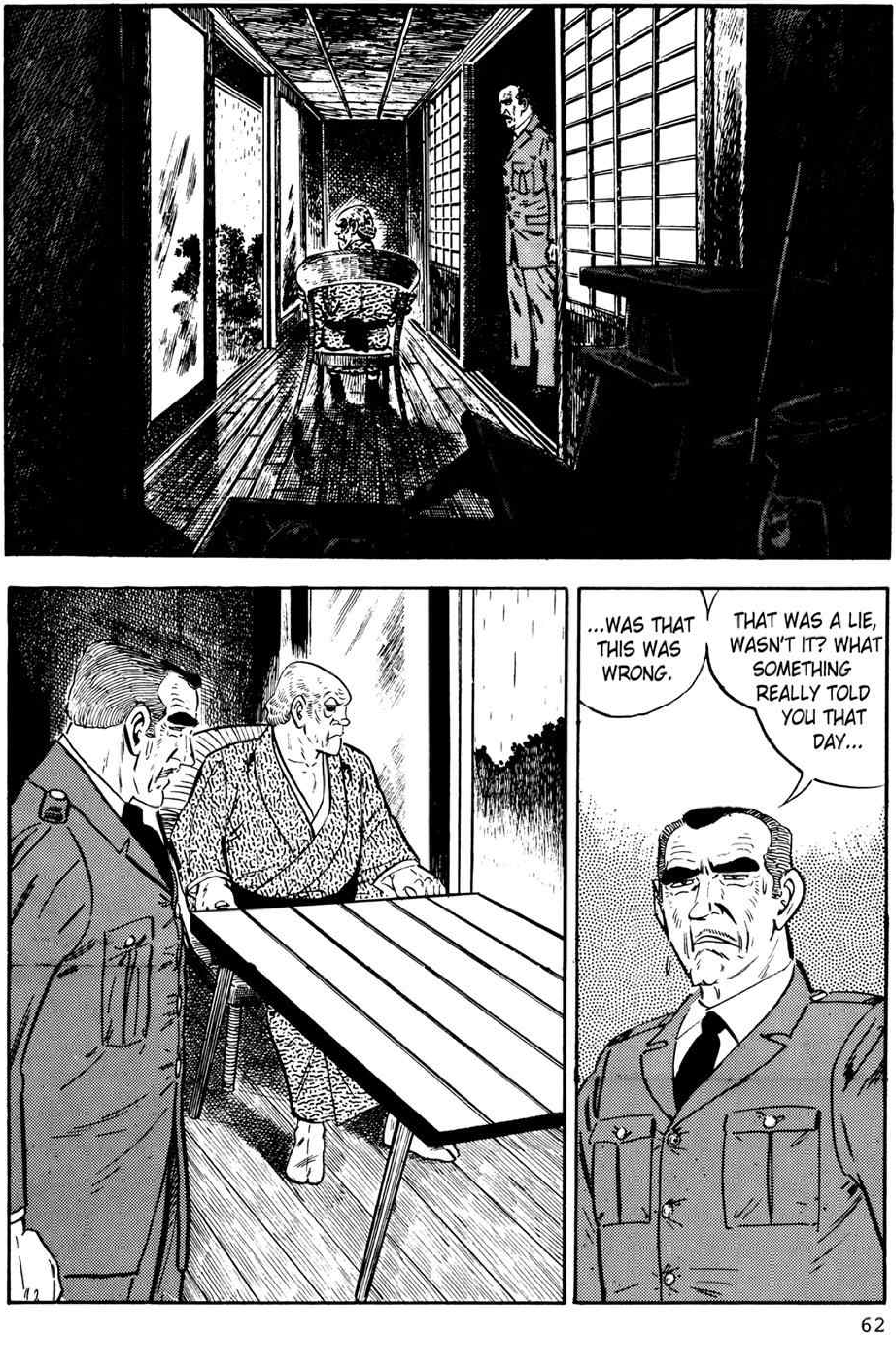

IF...IF YOU'RE TRYING TO PROTECT SOMEONE RELATED TO THE CASE... IF YOU'RE FRIGHTENED OF GIVING ME A NAME...
...YOU DON'T *HAVE* TO BE! WE CAN'T PROSECUTE THEM ANYMORE...CONSULT A LAWYER IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME!
......
WE...I JUST WANT TO ***KNOW***...
...THAT'S ALL.
......

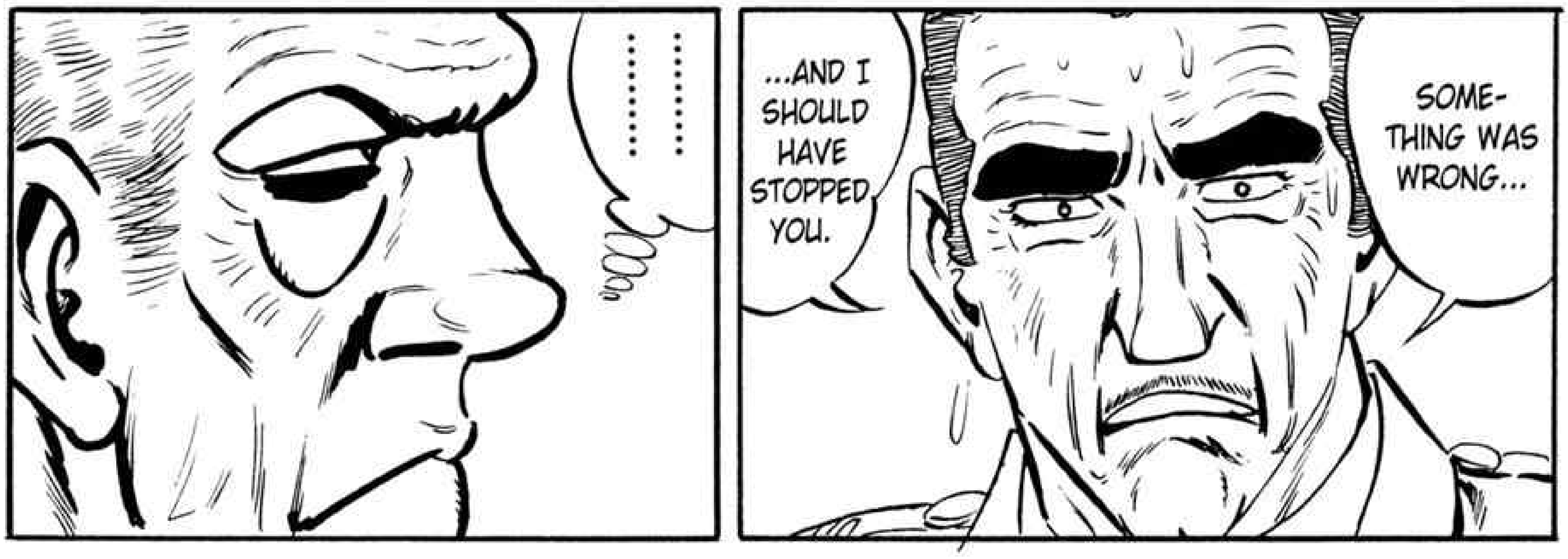

BAMMMMM
WHY'D YOU EVEN BOTHER TO COME HERE?!
I... I WANT TO SEE GORO.
EH?!
...I THOUGHT ABOUT THIS A LOT ON THE WAY HERE, DETECTIVE.
I WANT YOU TO SET UP A MEETING WITH HIM.
WHAT FOR ...?!
...I WON'T TELL YOU NOW.
......


WHAMM
NOTHING HERE. THE OLD WOMAN ISN'T SAYING A THING.
I SEE ...
...HIROKO SAYS SHE'LL TALK IF WE LET HER SEE HER BROTHER.
WHAT...? WE DON'T HAVE HIM IN CUSTODY!
I DON'T KNOW ...!!
IF WE LET HER? THEY'RE BOTH ADULTS...WHY DOESN'T SHE JUST GO SEE HIM HERSELF...?
I ASKED HER THAT...SHE SAID SHE'D BE MORE COMFORTABLE IF WE SET IT UP. SHE MENTIONED A HOTEL.
LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHY!!
......
...BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME THIS MIGHT BE OUR LAST CHANCE TO EVER FIND OUT.

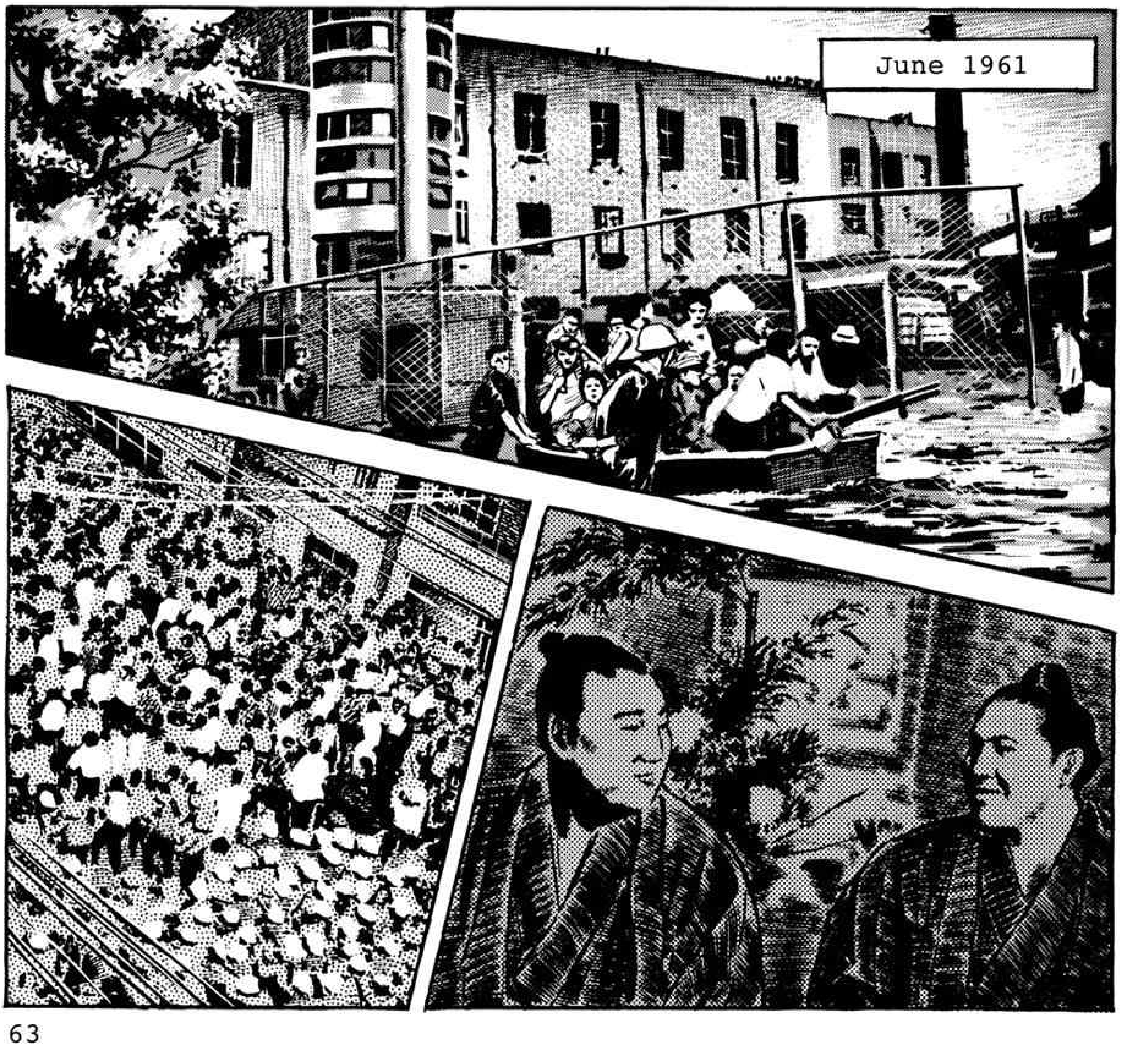


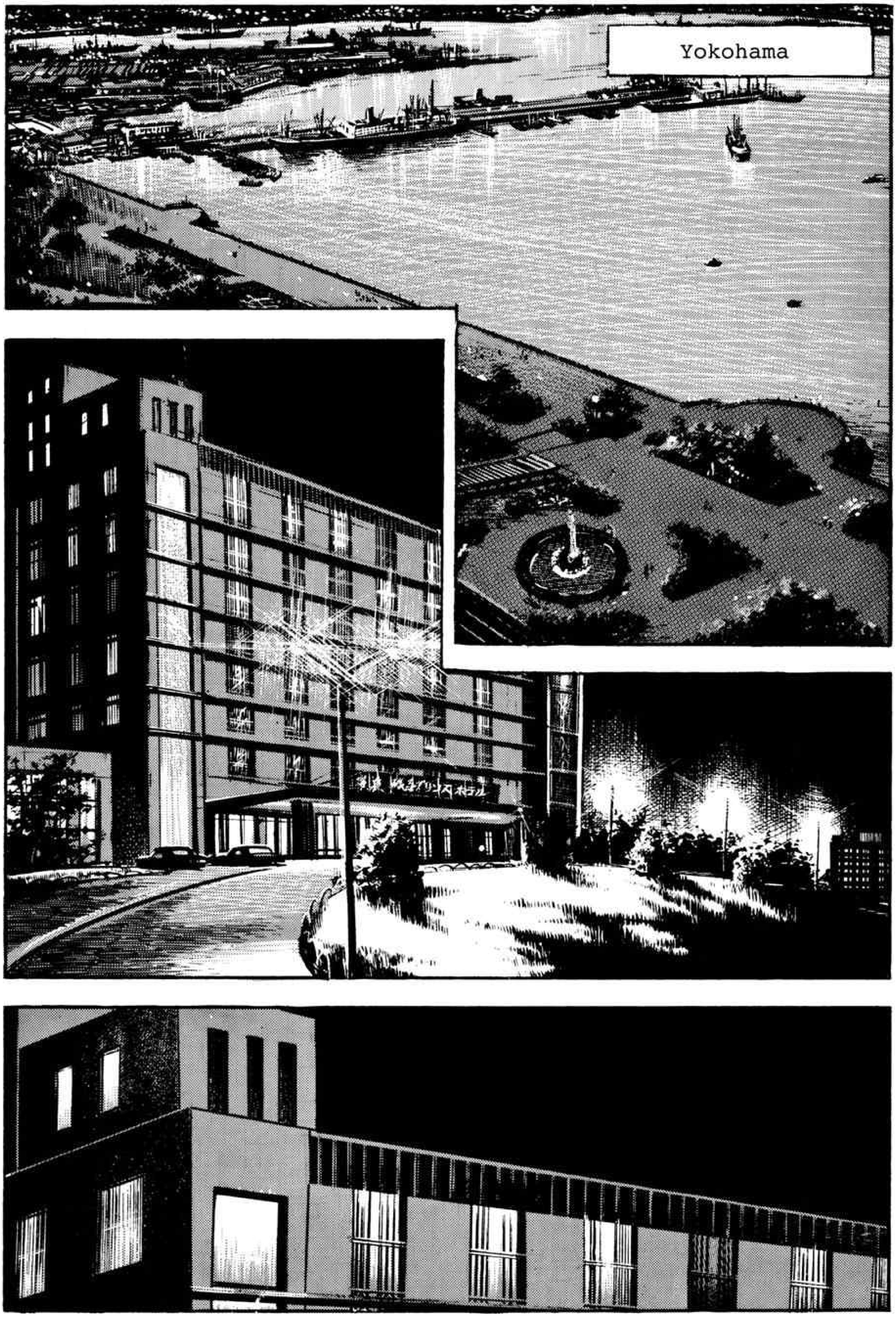


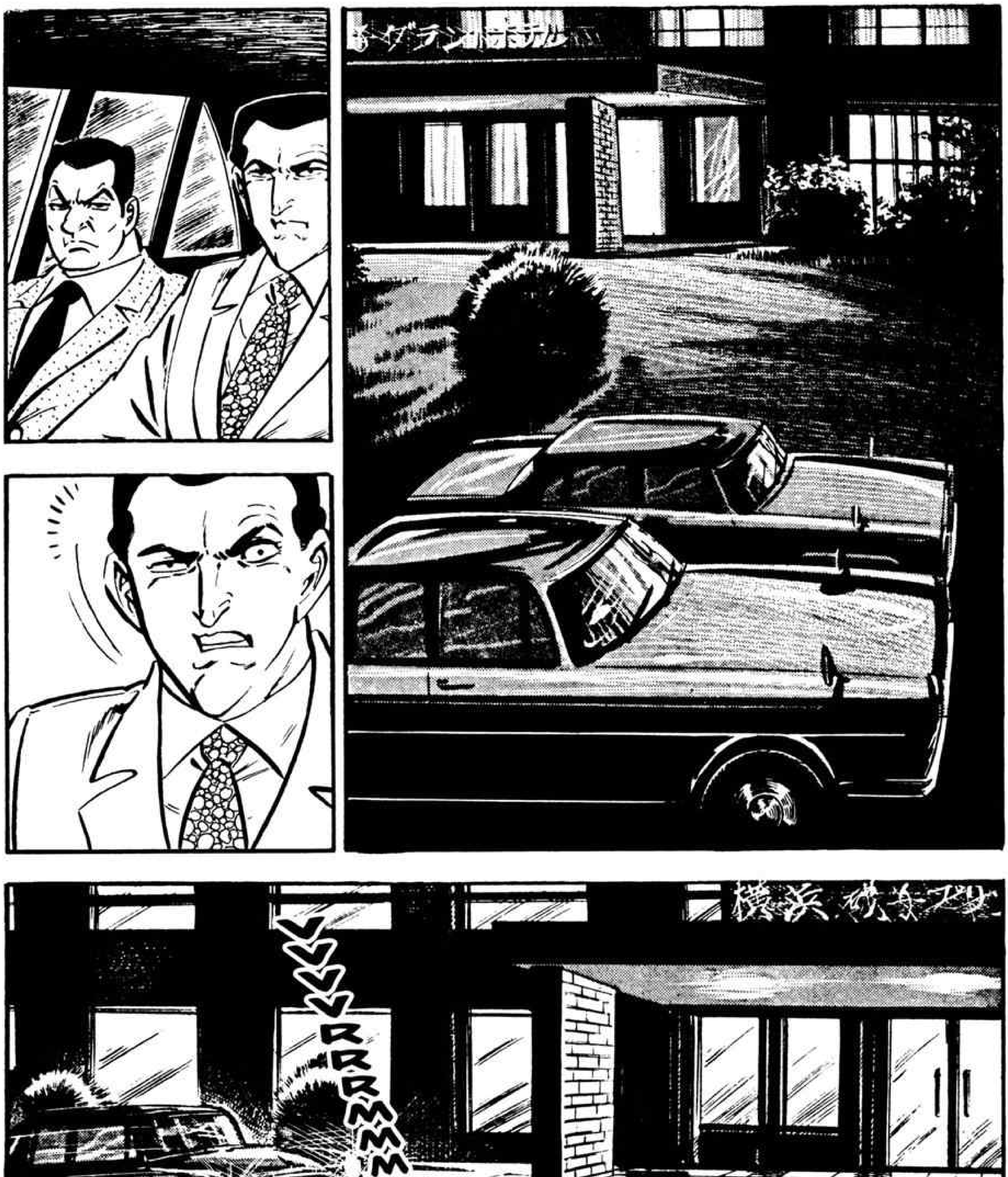

THAT WAS A LIE, WASN'T IT? WHAT SOMETHING REALLY TOLD YOU THAT DAY...
...WAS THAT THIS WAS WRONG.

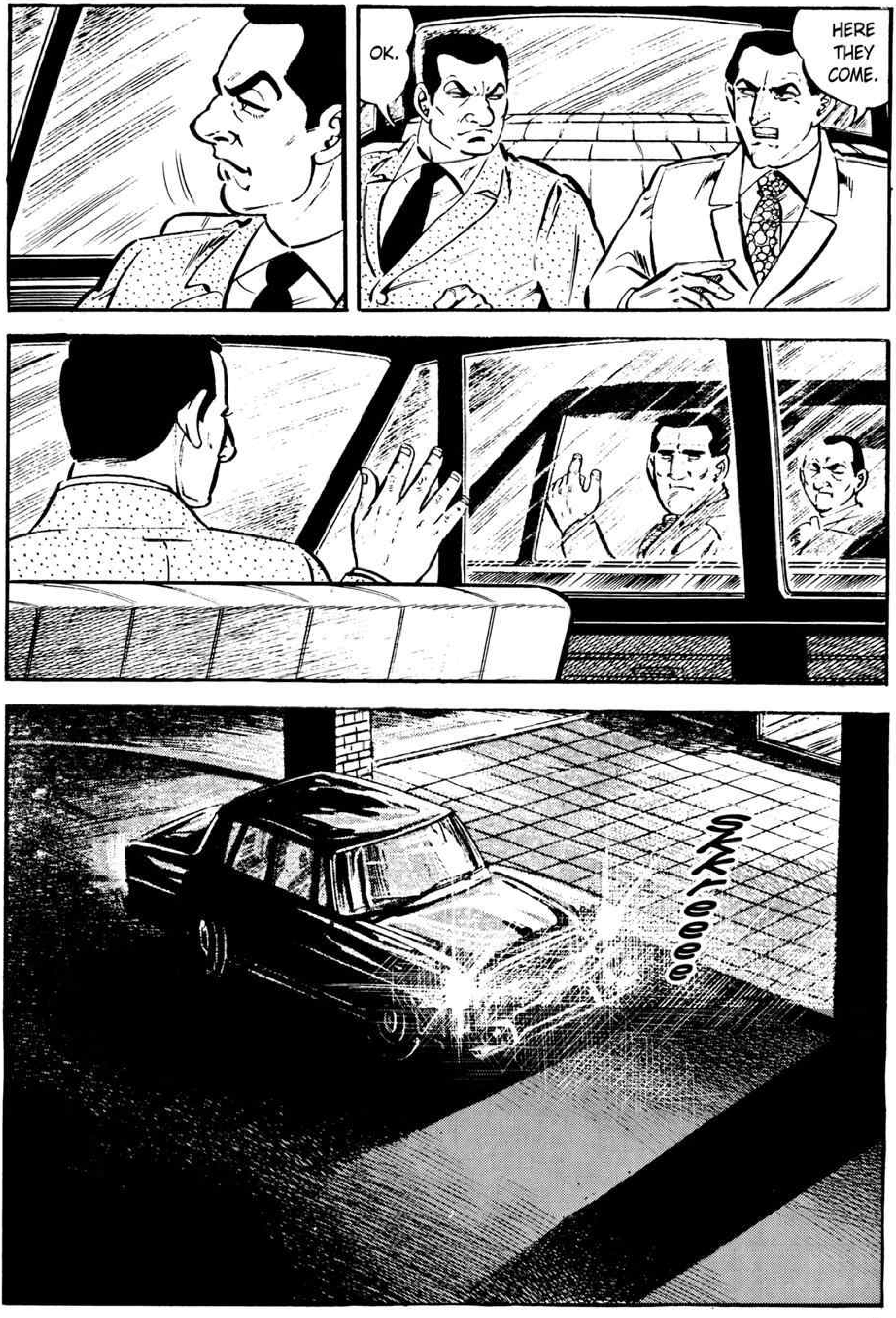

SOMETHING WAS WRONG...
...AND I SHOULD HAVE STOPPED YOU.
……

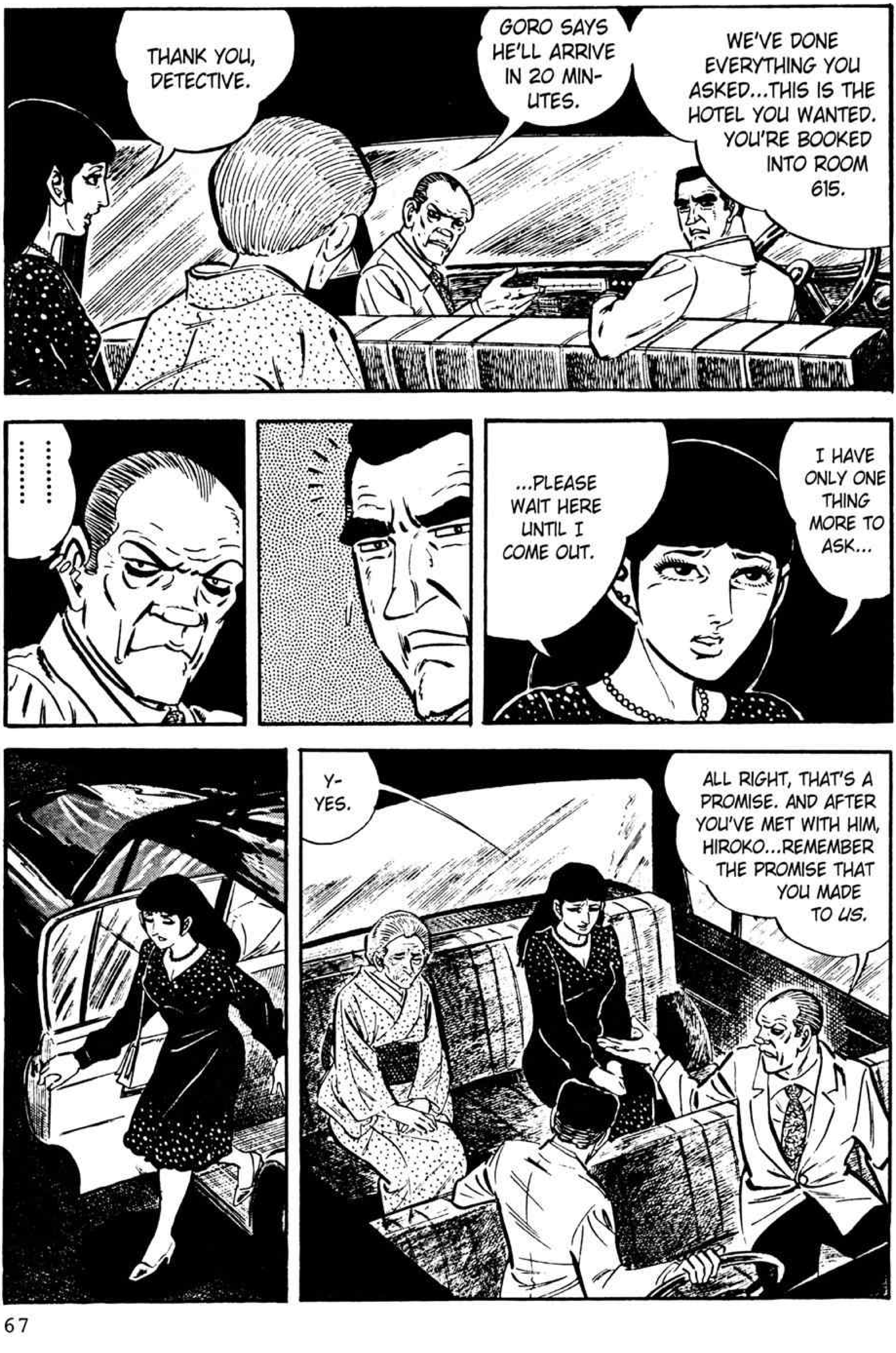
PART 9 REUNION

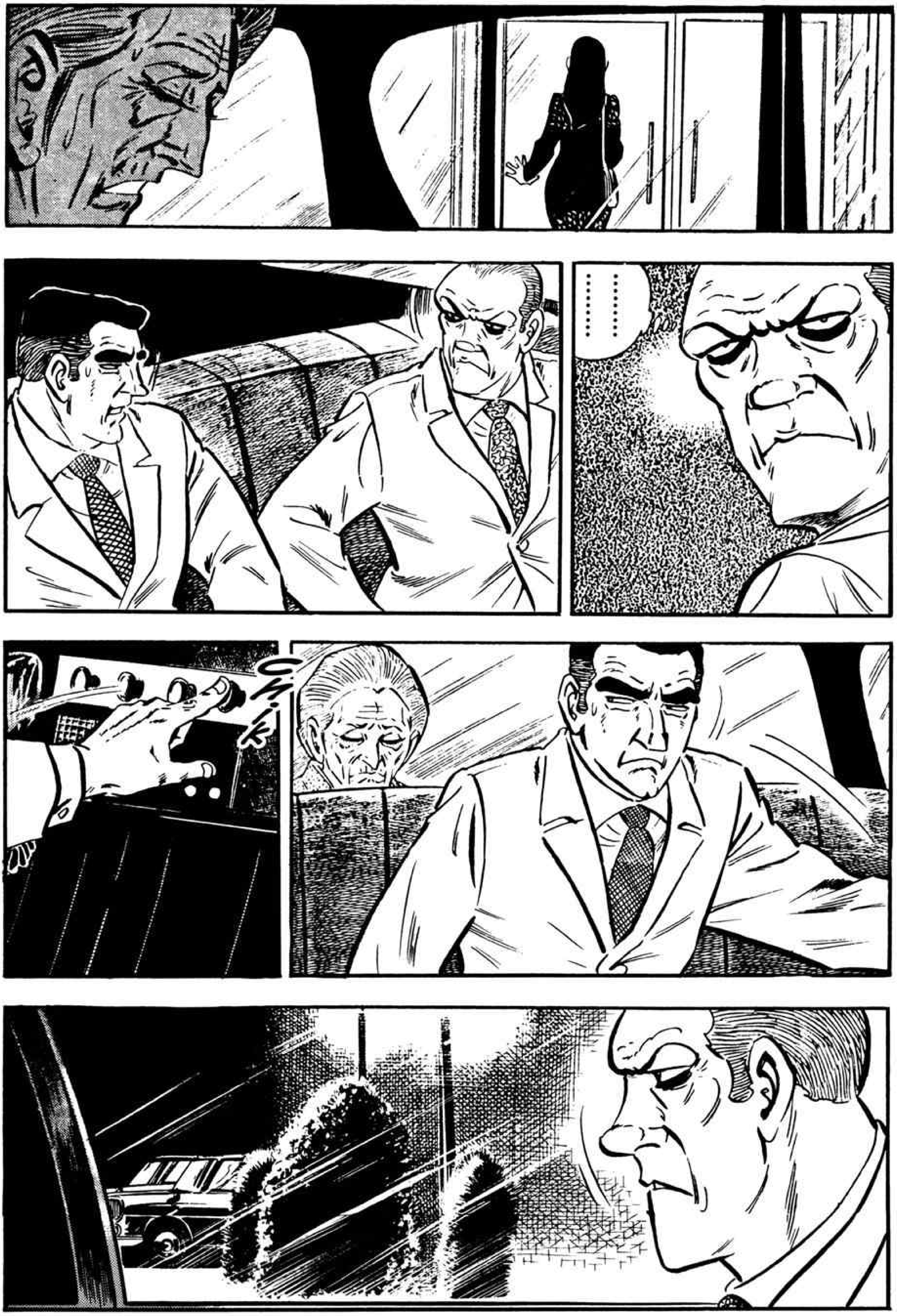


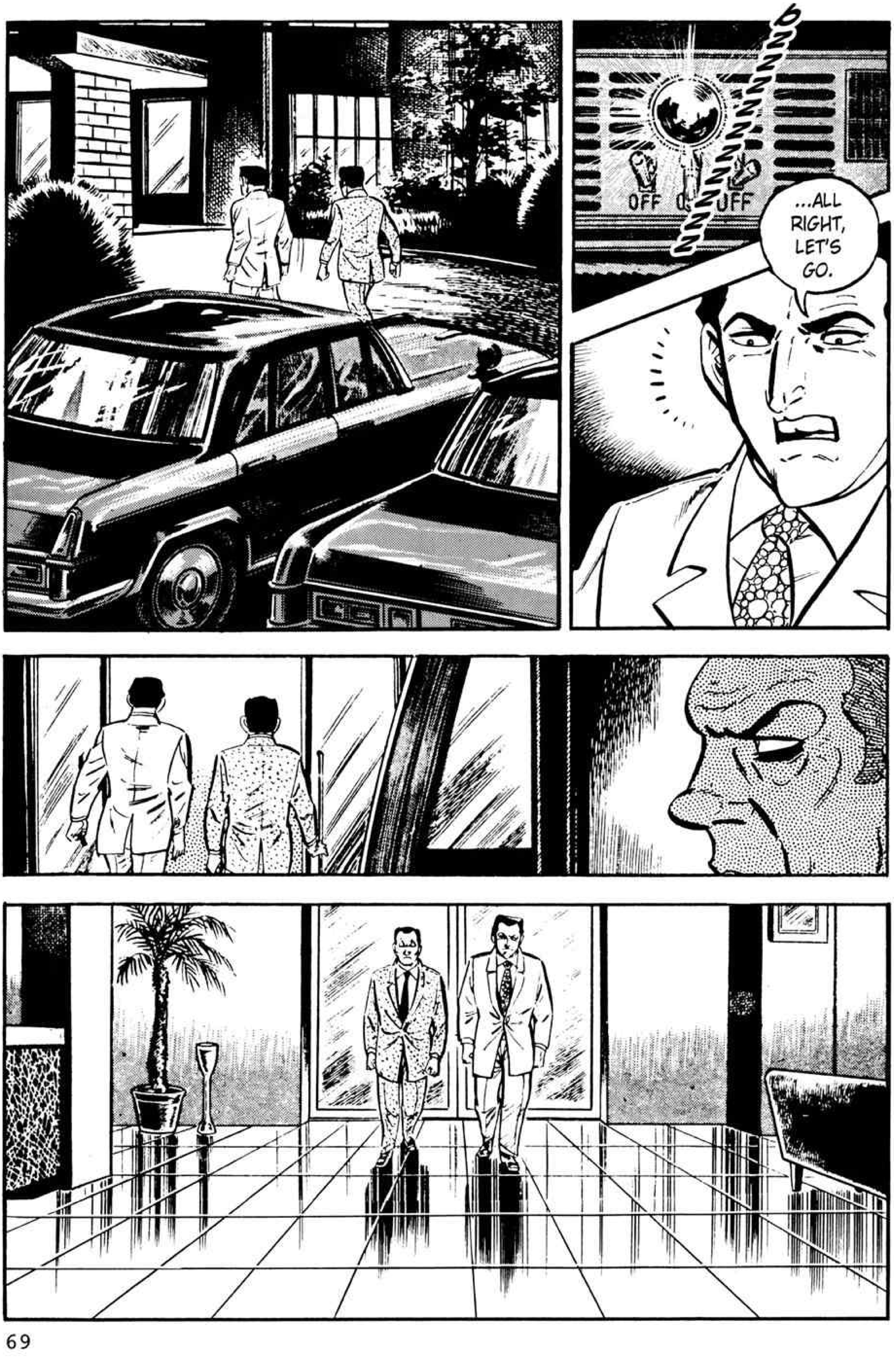

Yokohama

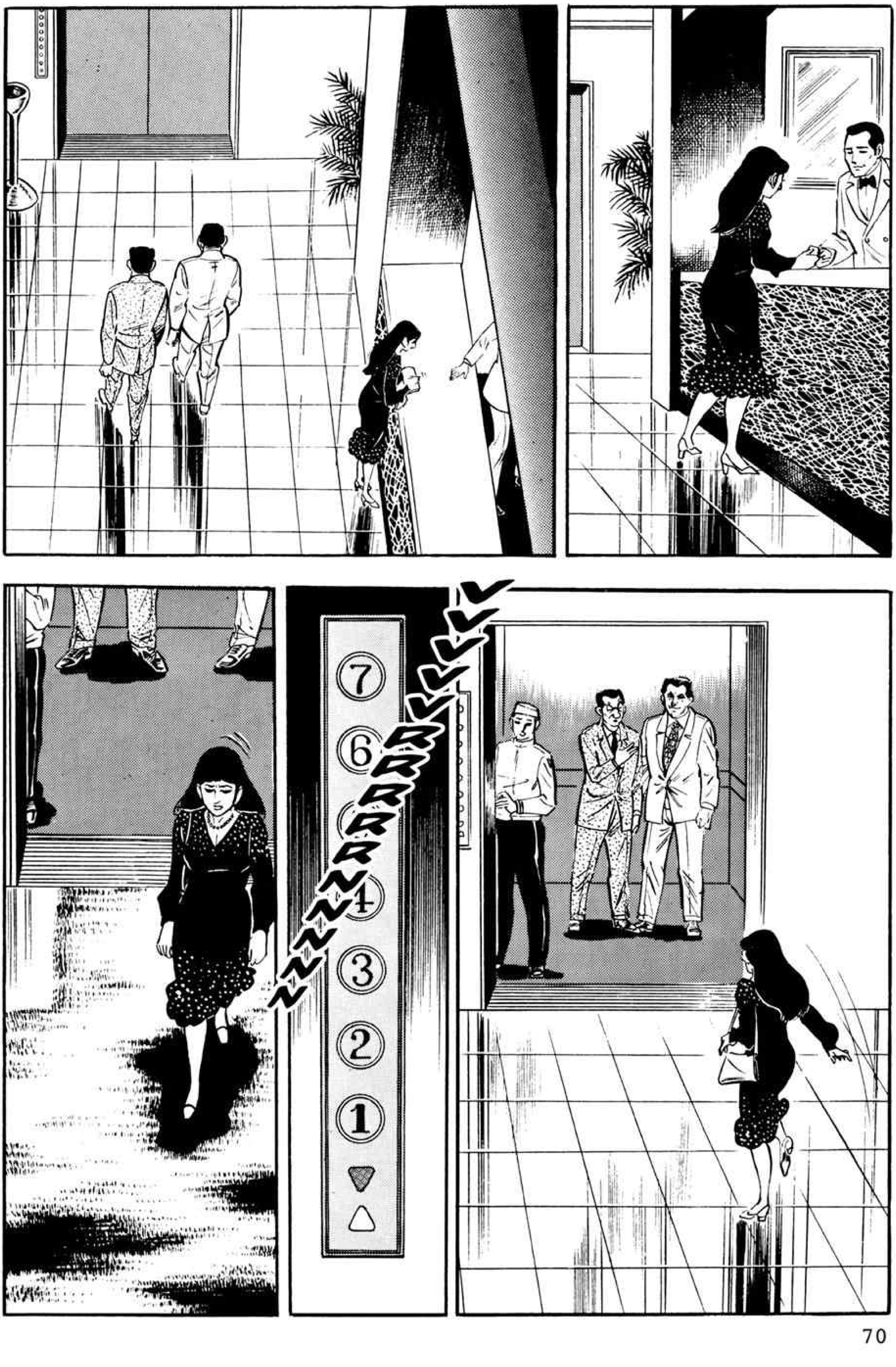

グランドホテル
横浜
VVVVRRRMMMM

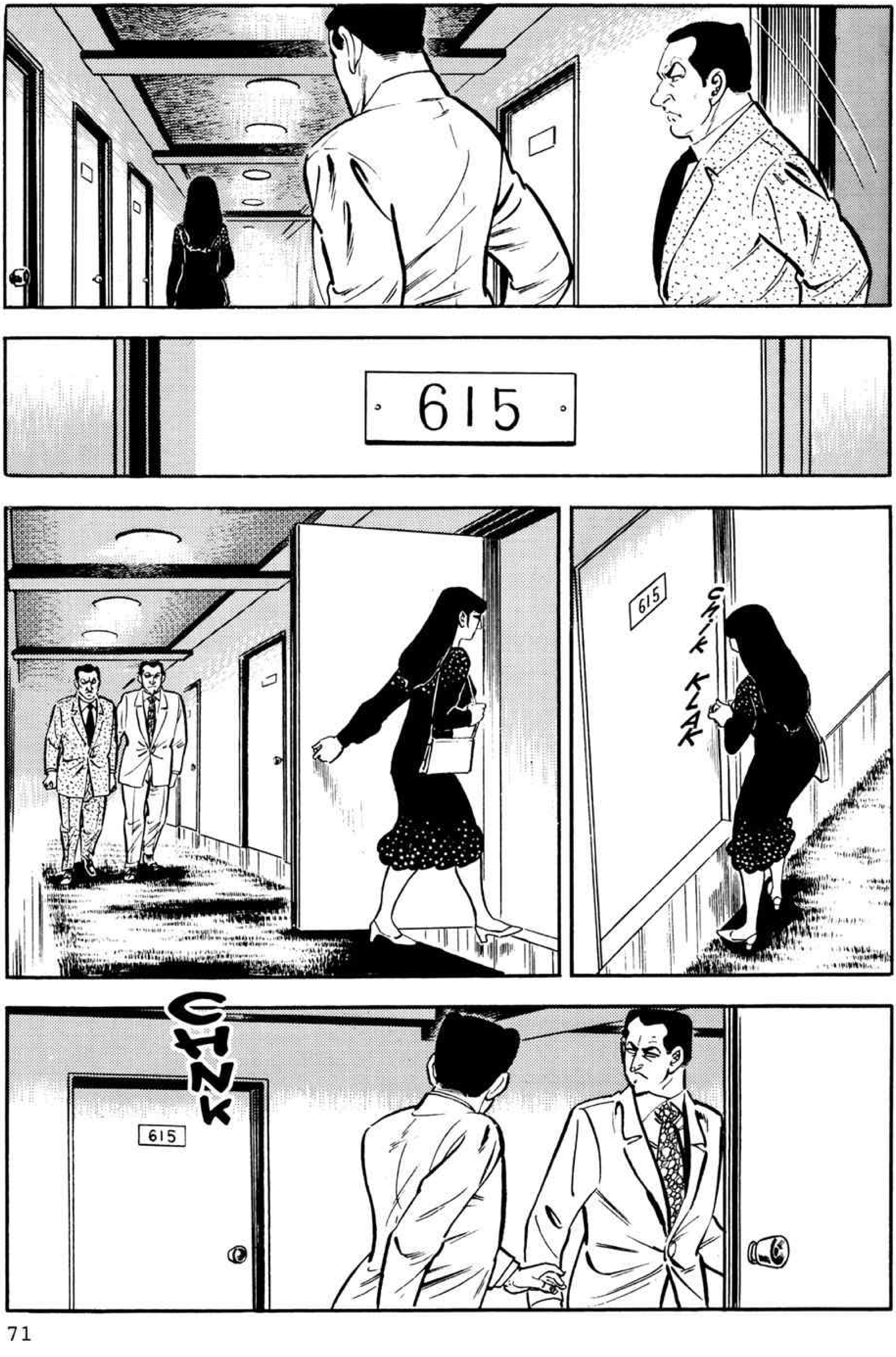

HERE THEY COME.
OK.
SKKreeee

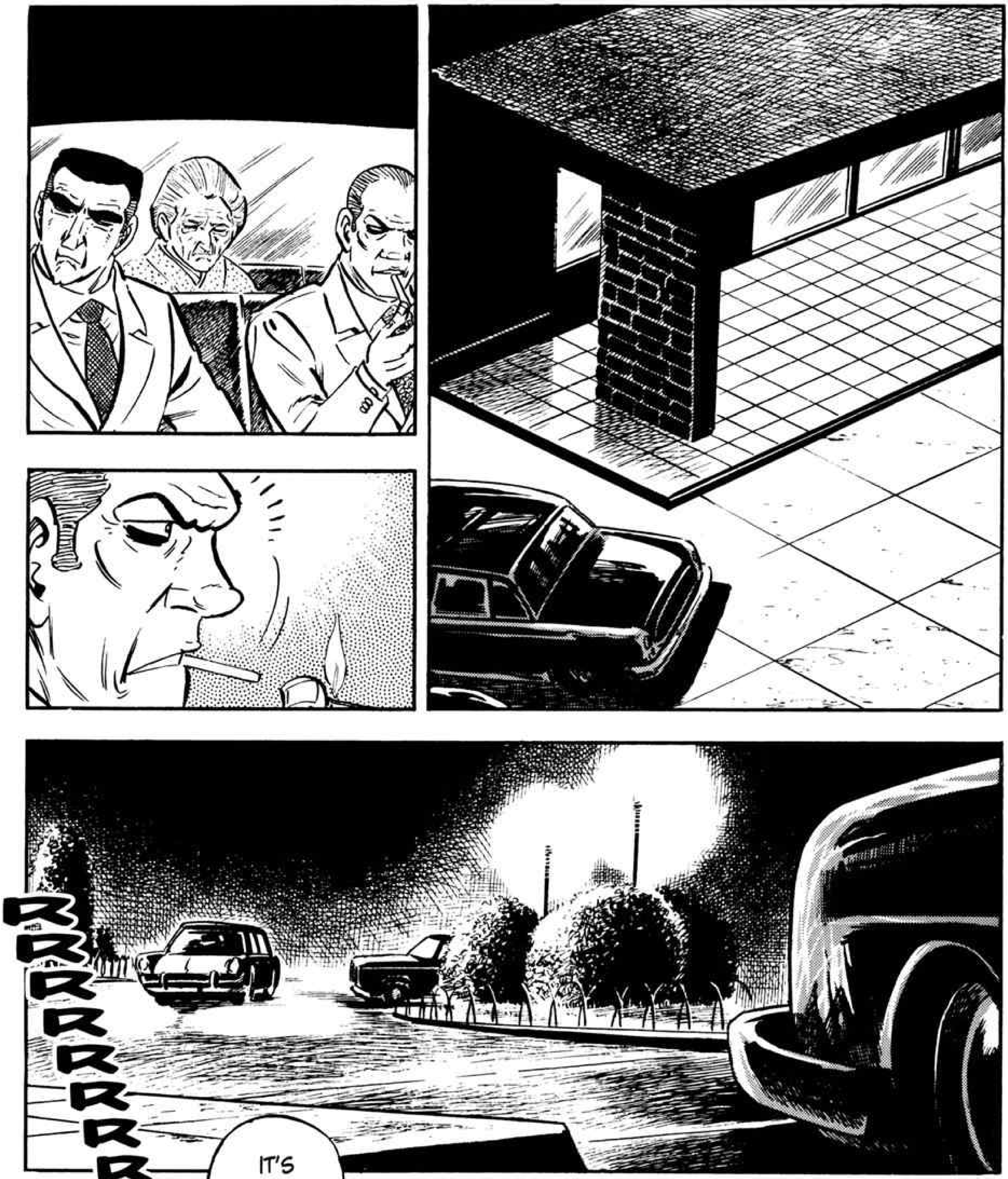

WE'VE DONE EVERYTHING YOU ASKED...THIS IS THE HOTEL YOU WANTED. YOU'RE BOOKED INTO ROOM 615.
GORO SAYS HE'LL ARRIVE IN 20 MINUTES.
THANK YOU, DETECTIVE.
I HAVE ONLY ONE THING MORE TO ASK...
...PLEASE WAIT HERE UNTIL I COME OUT.
......
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S A PROMISE. AND AFTER YOU'VE MET WITH HIM, HIROKO...REMEMBER THE PROMISE THAT YOU MADE TO *US*.
Y-YES.

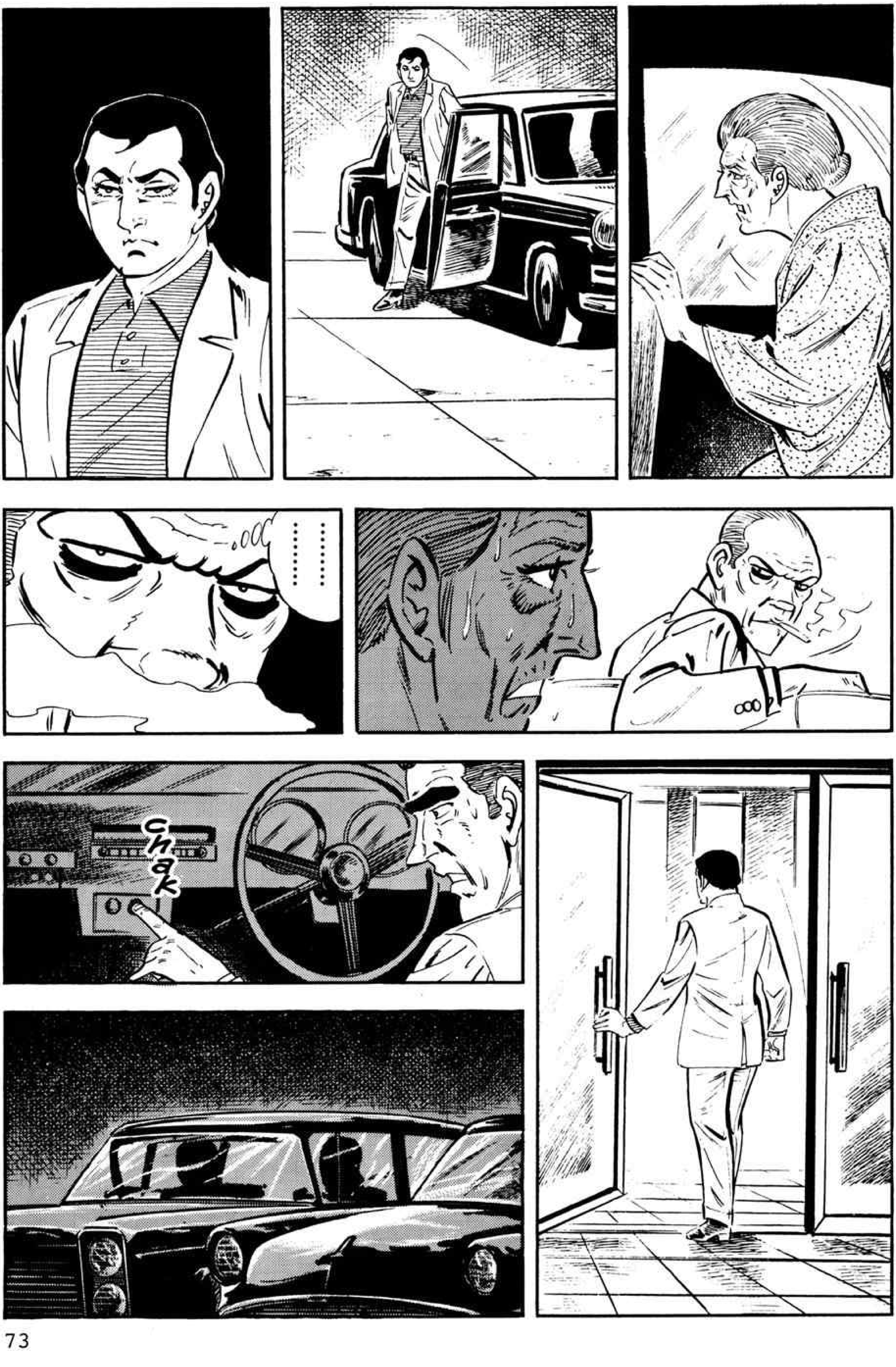

......
CHIK

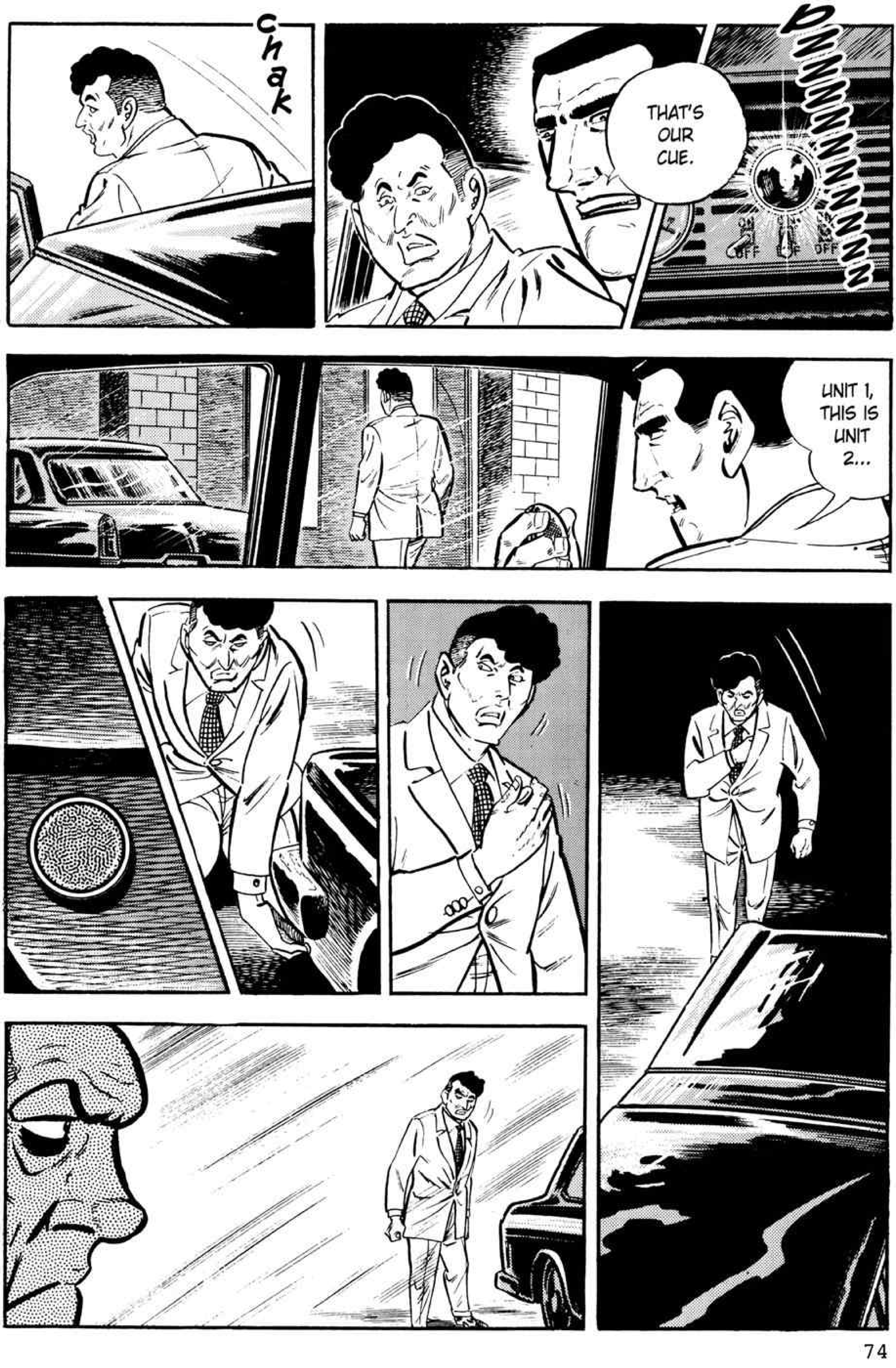

BZZZZZZZZZZZZ
OFF
O
OFF
...ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO.

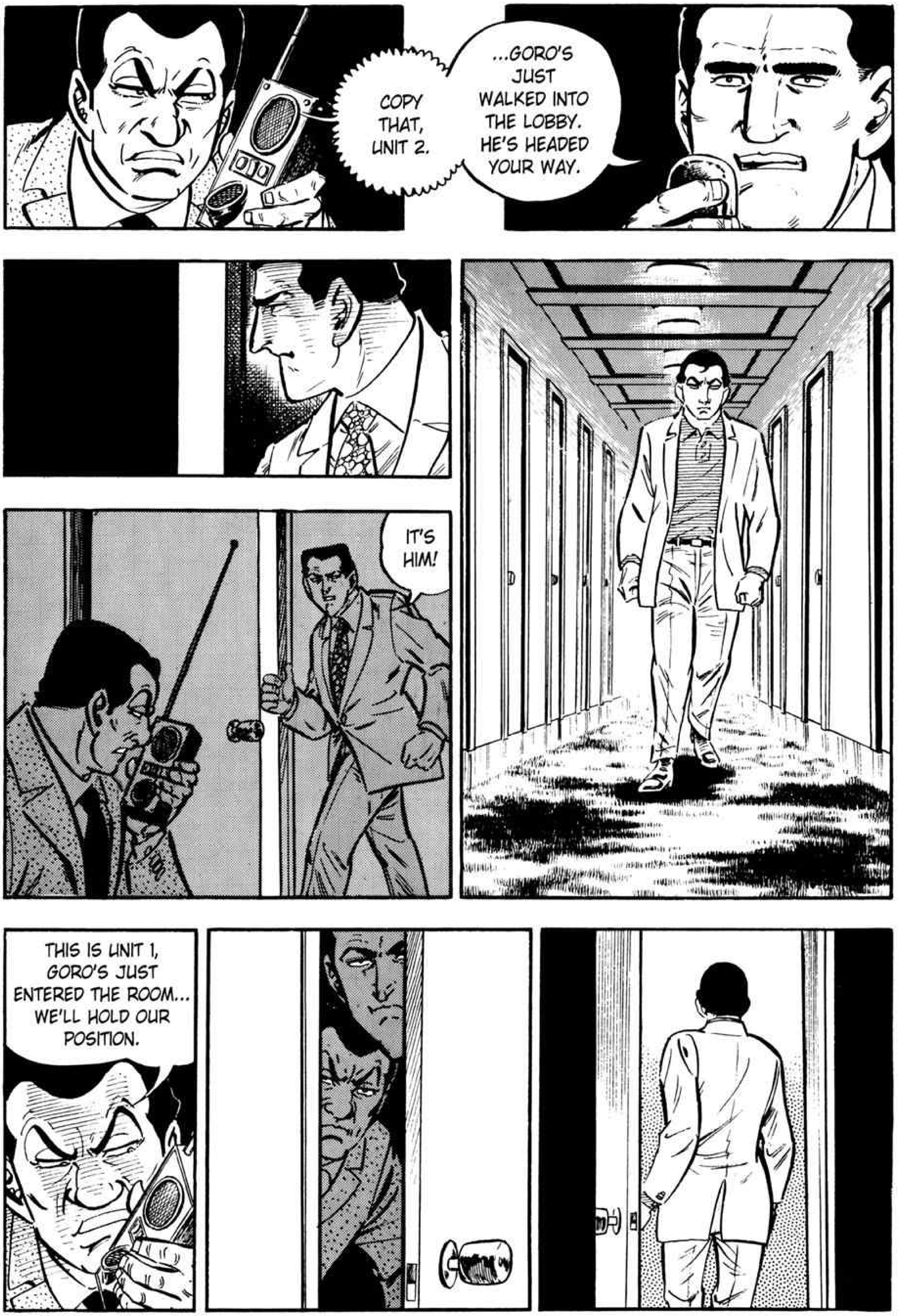

VVVVVRRRRRNNNNN
7
6
4
3
2
1
▼
△


615
615
CHIK KLAK
CHNK
615

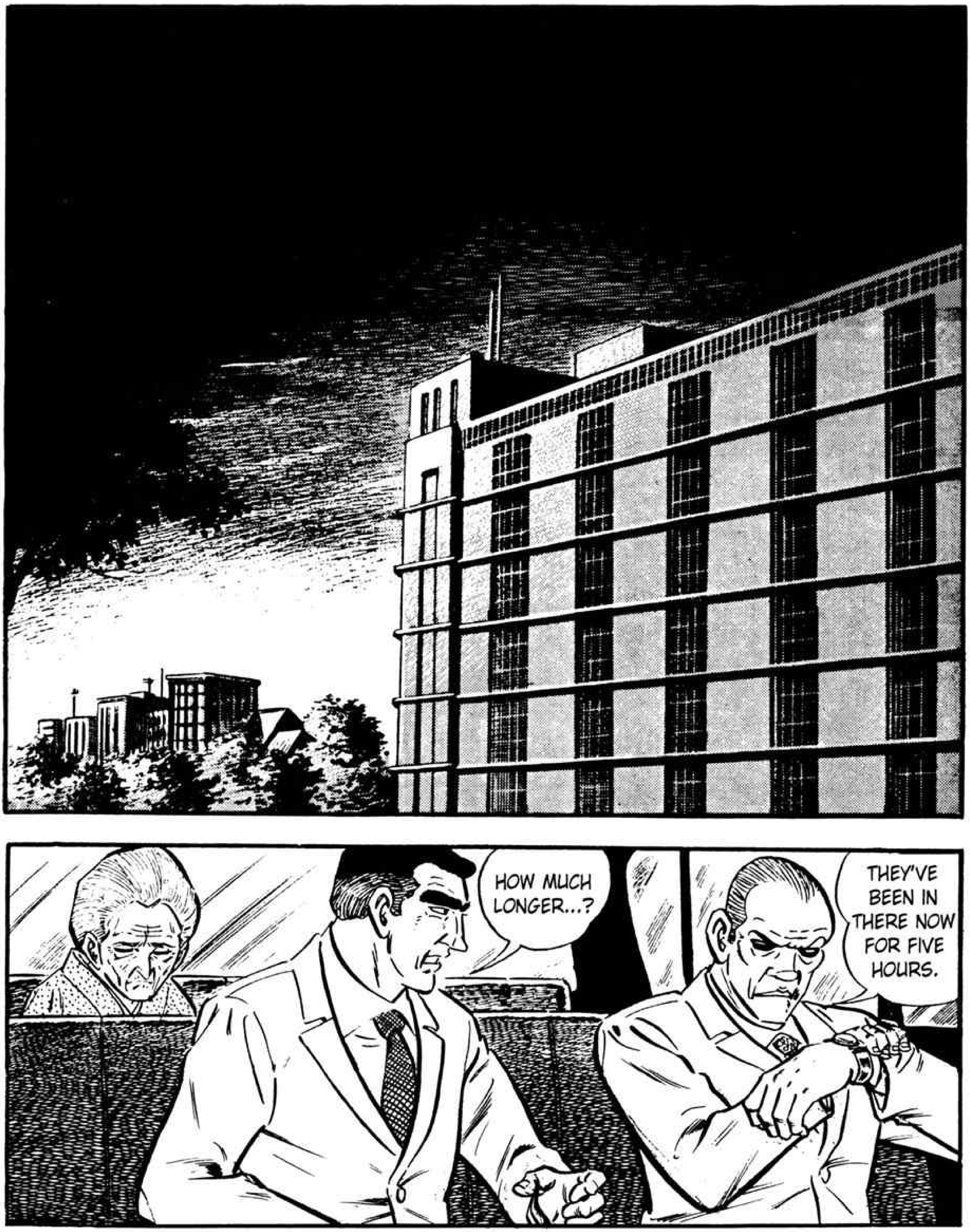

RRRRRRRRMMMMMMMMM
IT'S GORO!

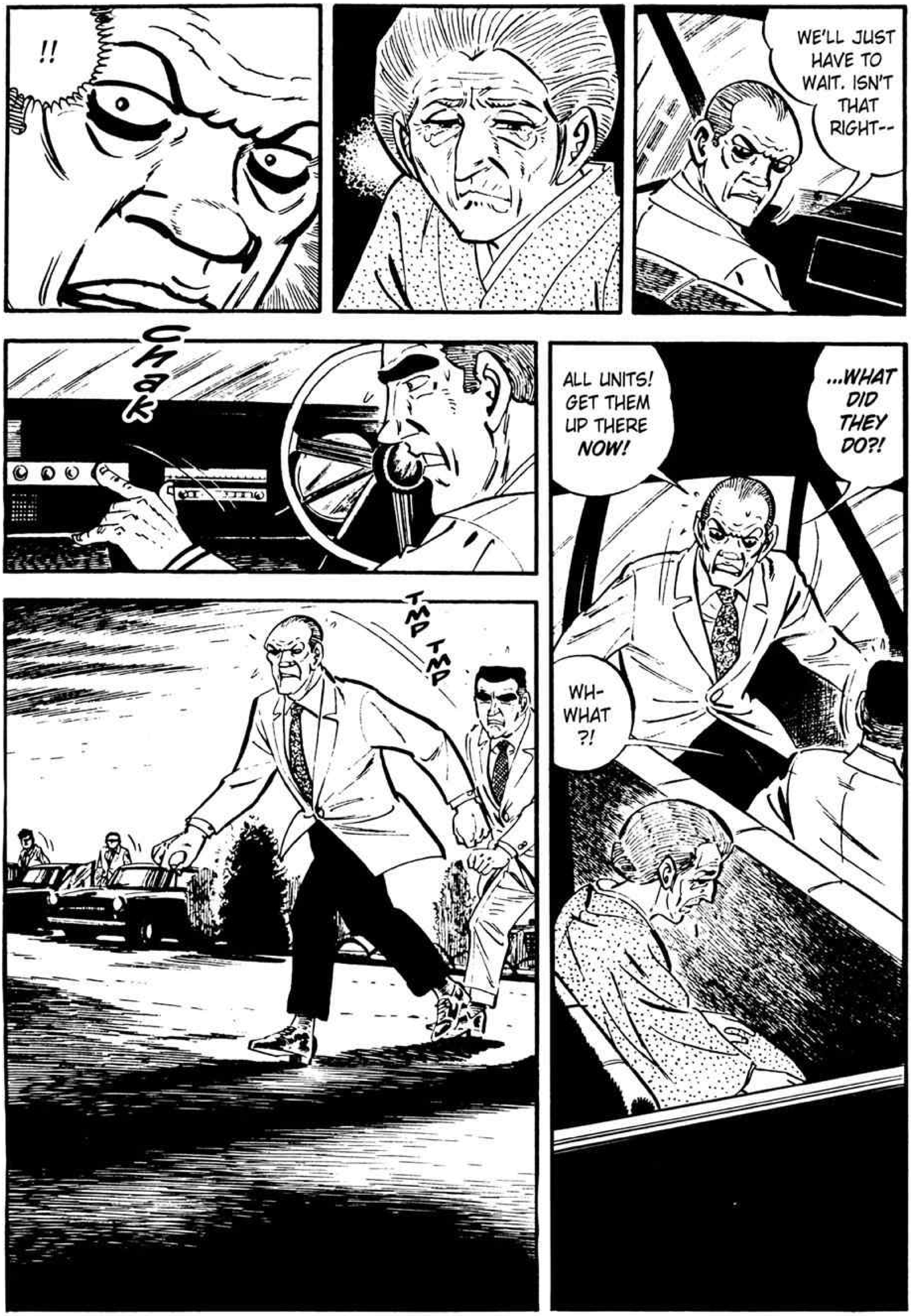

……
Chak

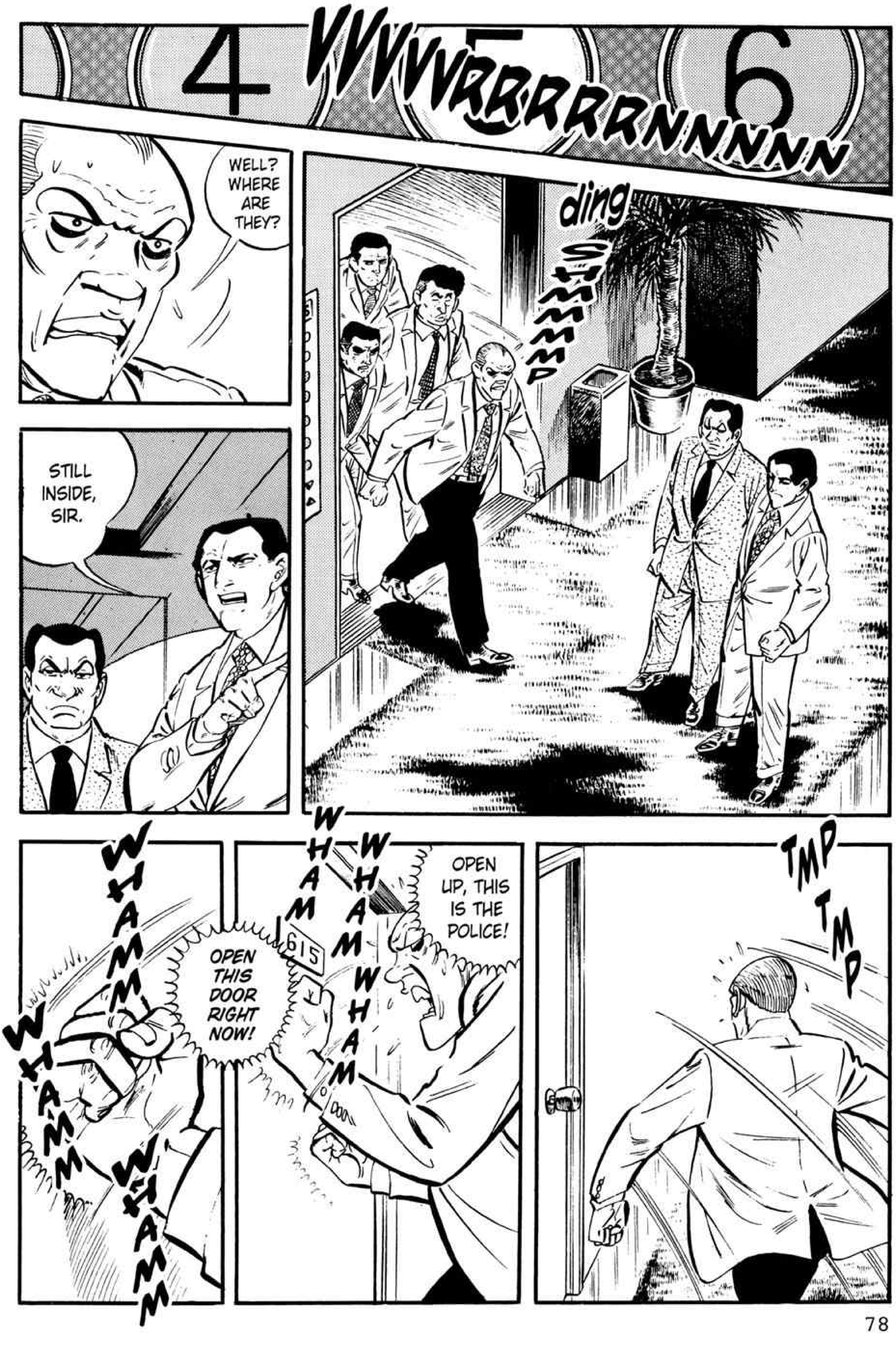

chak
DNNNNNNNNNN
THAT'S OUR CUE.
UNIT 1, THIS IS UNIT 2...
ON
OFF
OFF
OFF

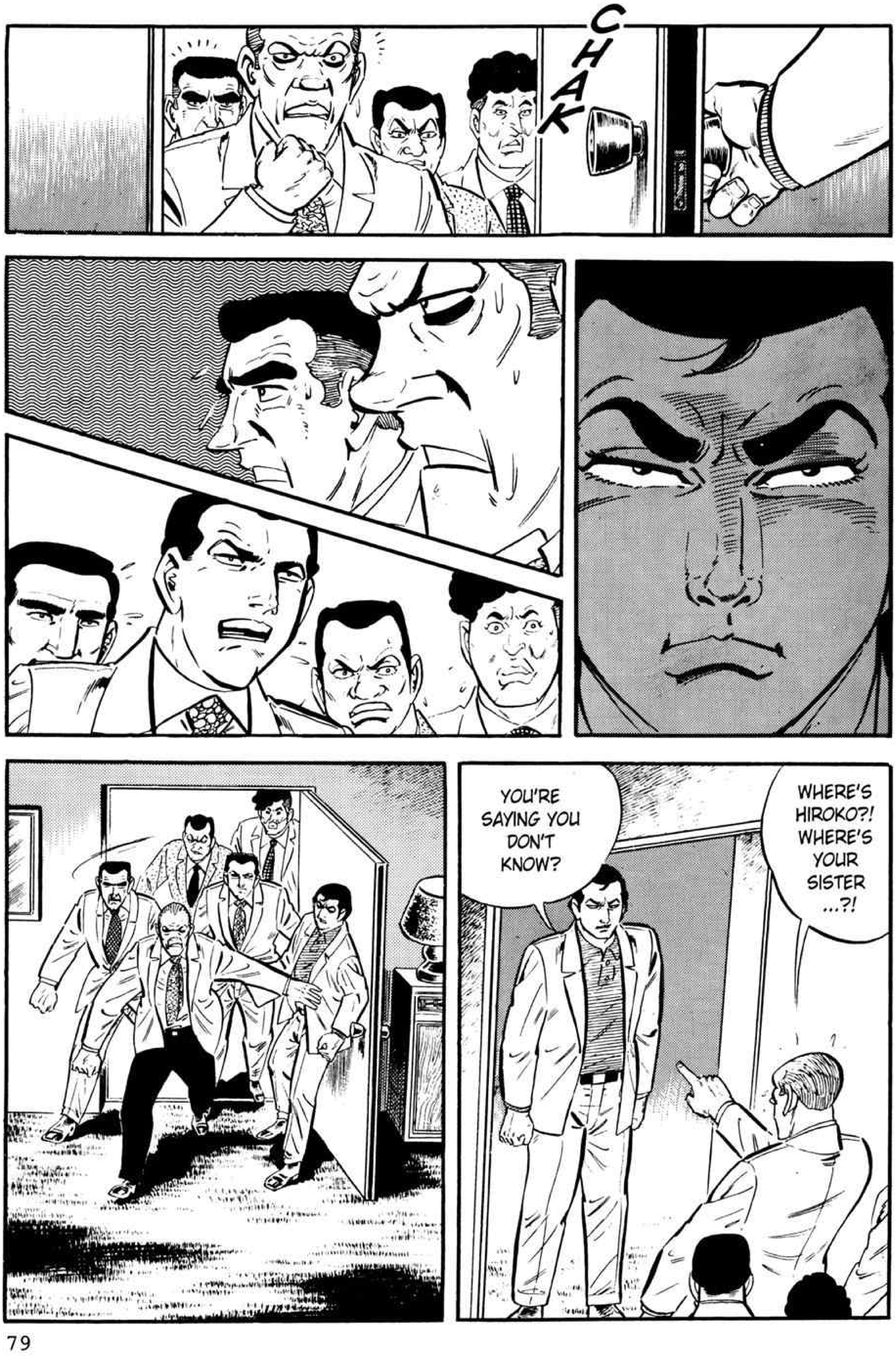

...GORO'S JUST WALKED INTO THE LOBBY. HE'S HEADED YOUR WAY.
COPY THAT, UNIT 2.
IT'S HIM!
THIS IS UNIT 1, GORO'S JUST ENTERED THE ROOM... WE'LL HOLD OUR POSITION.

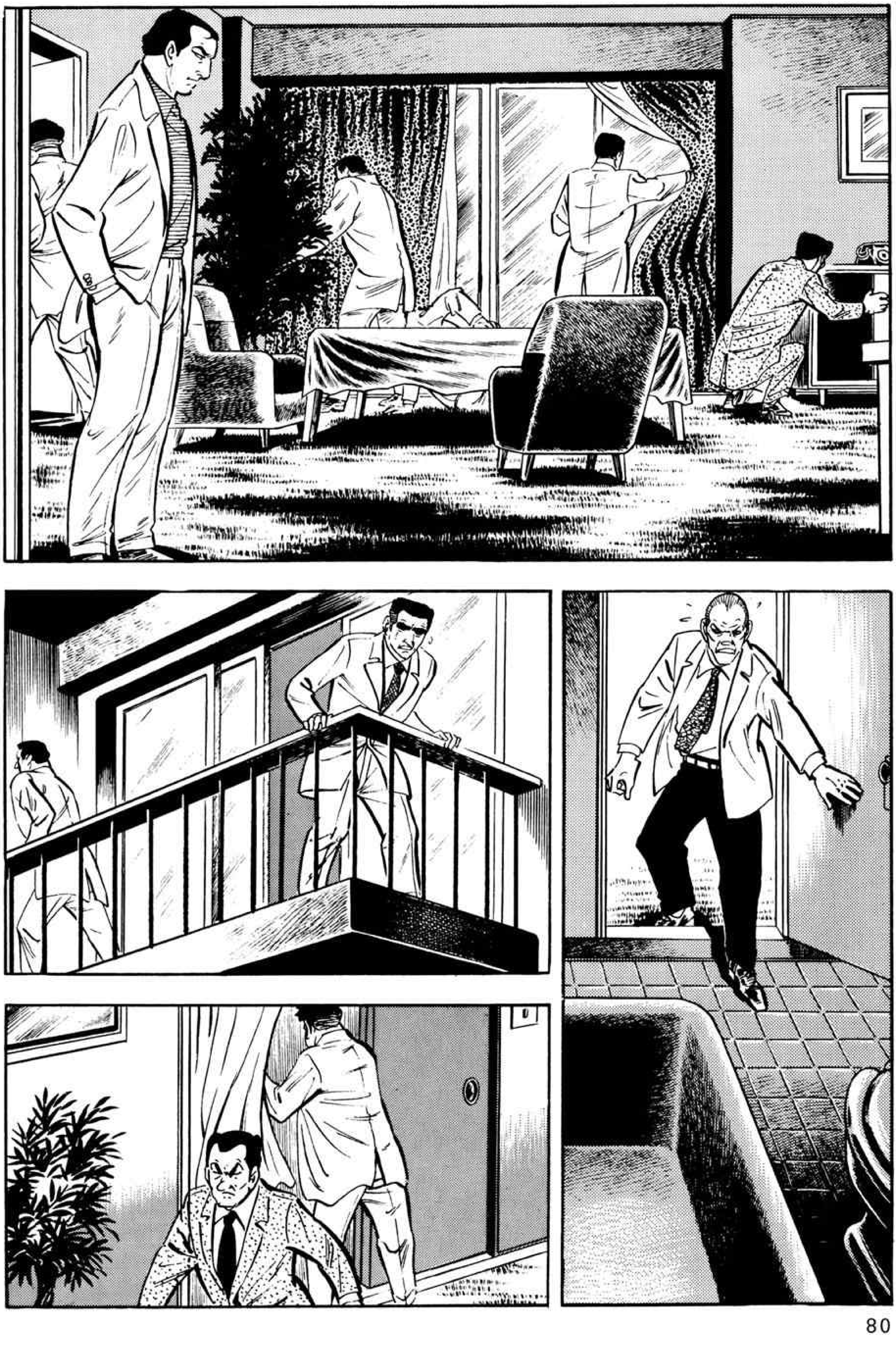
PART 10 DISAPPEARANCE

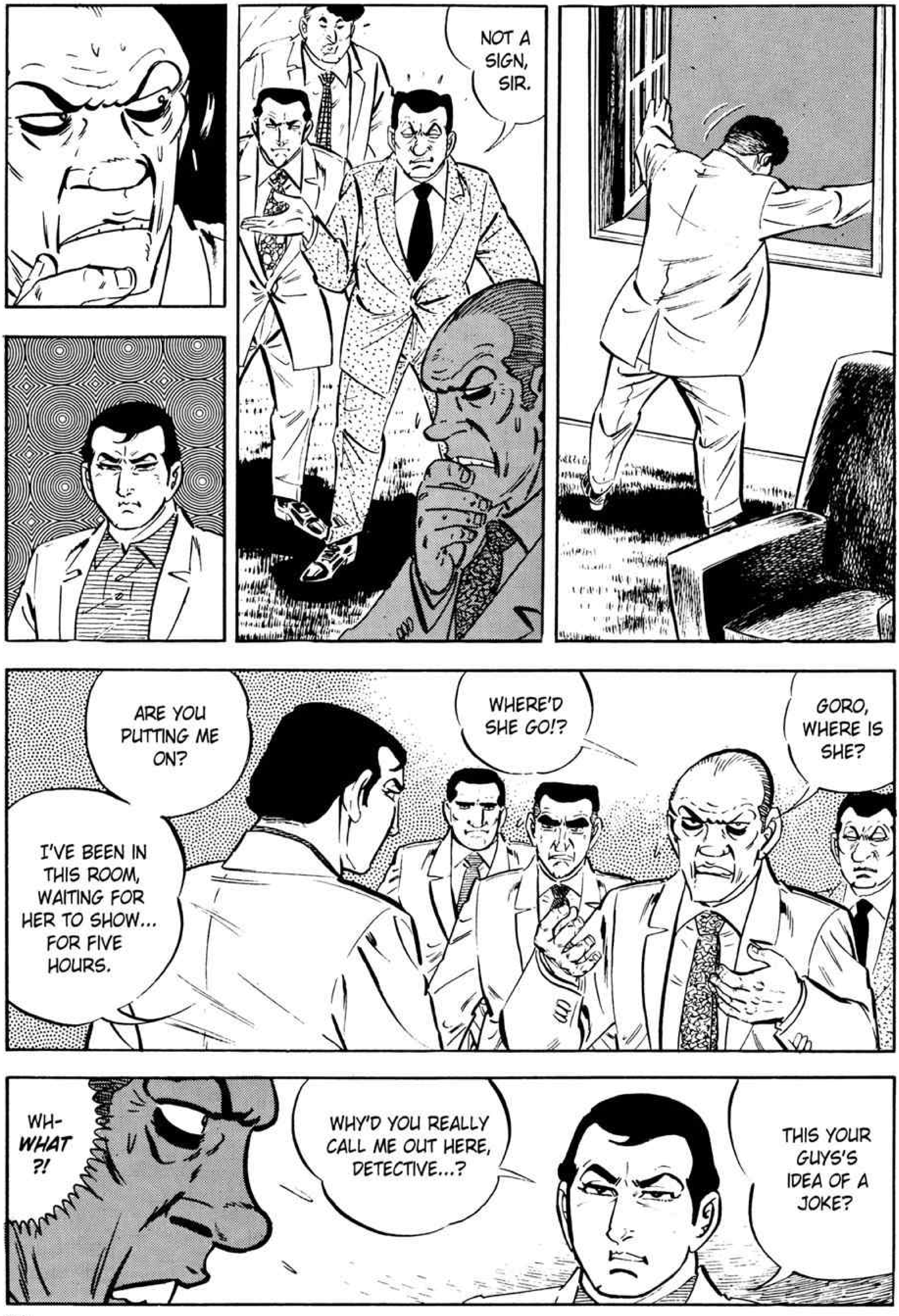

HOW MUCH LONGER...?
THEY'VE BEEN IN THERE NOW FOR FIVE HOURS.

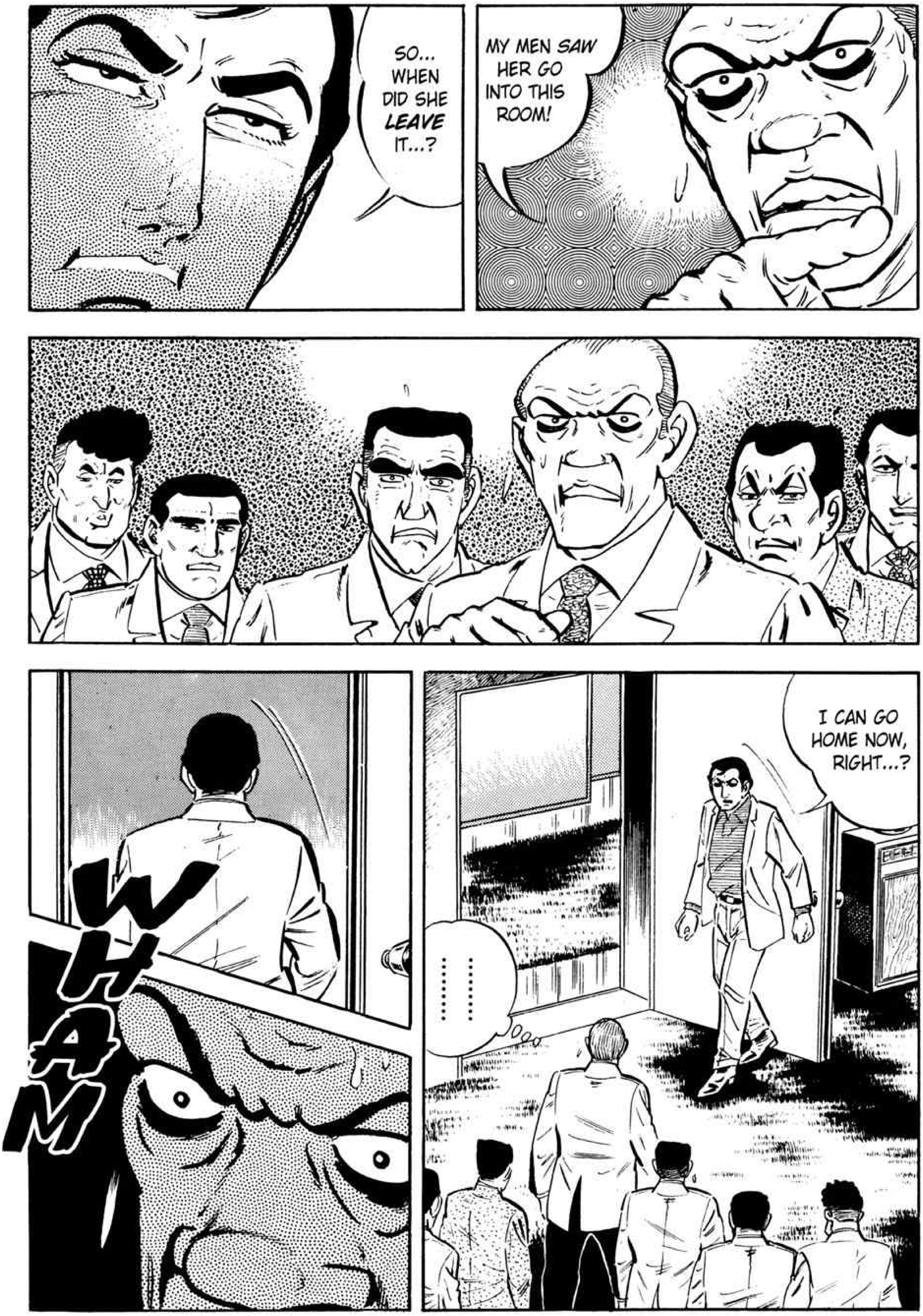

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT. ISN'T THAT RIGHT--
!!
...WHAT DID THEY DO?!
ALL UNITS! GET THEM UP THERE NOW!
WH- WHAT ?!
Chak
TMP TMP

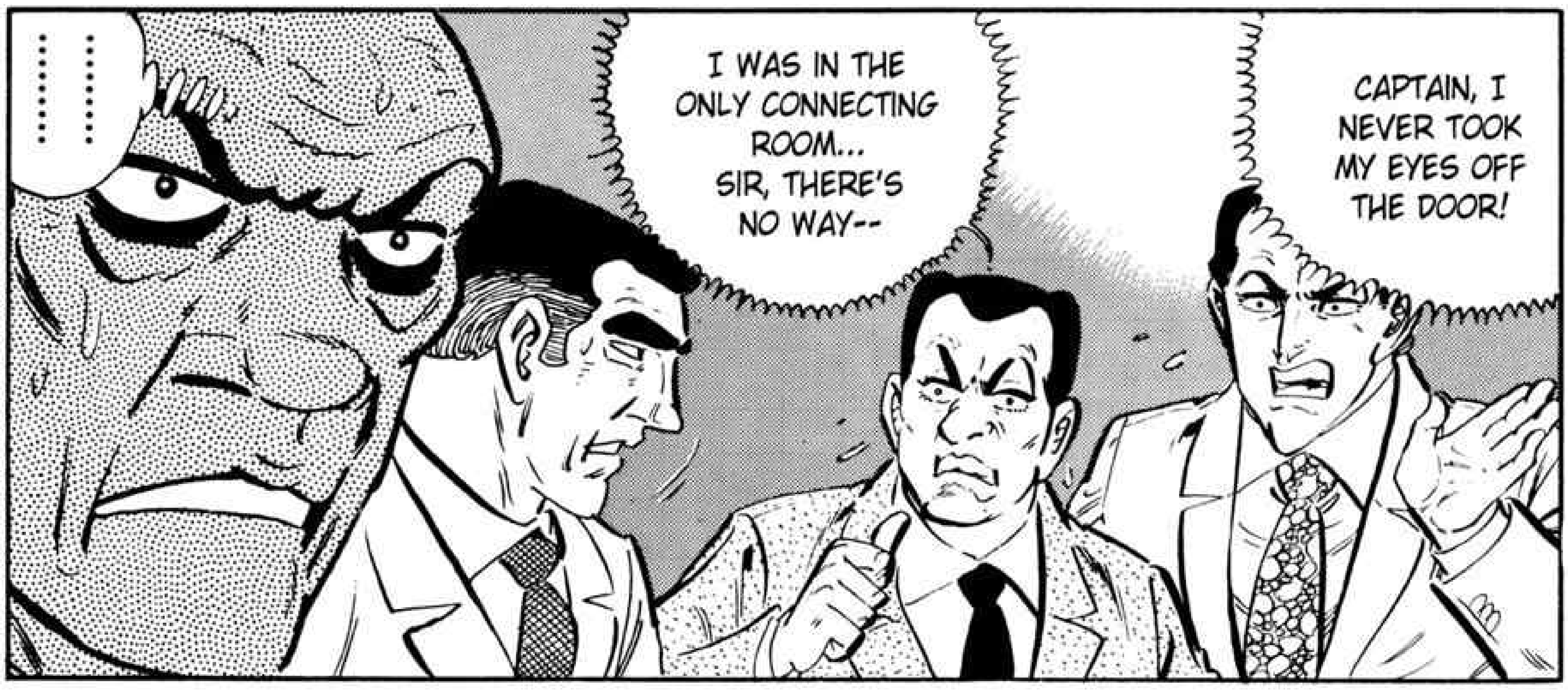

4
VVVVVRRRRRRNNNNNNN
6
WELL? WHERE ARE THEY?
STILL INSIDE, SIR.
ding
SHMMMMP
WHAMM
WHAMM
WHAMM
OPEN THIS DOOR RIGHT NOW!
WHAM
615
WHAM WHAM
OPEN UP, THIS IS THE POLICE!
TMP TMP


CHAK
WHERE'S HIROKO?! WHERE'S YOUR SISTER ...?!
YOU'RE SAYING YOU DON'T KNOW?

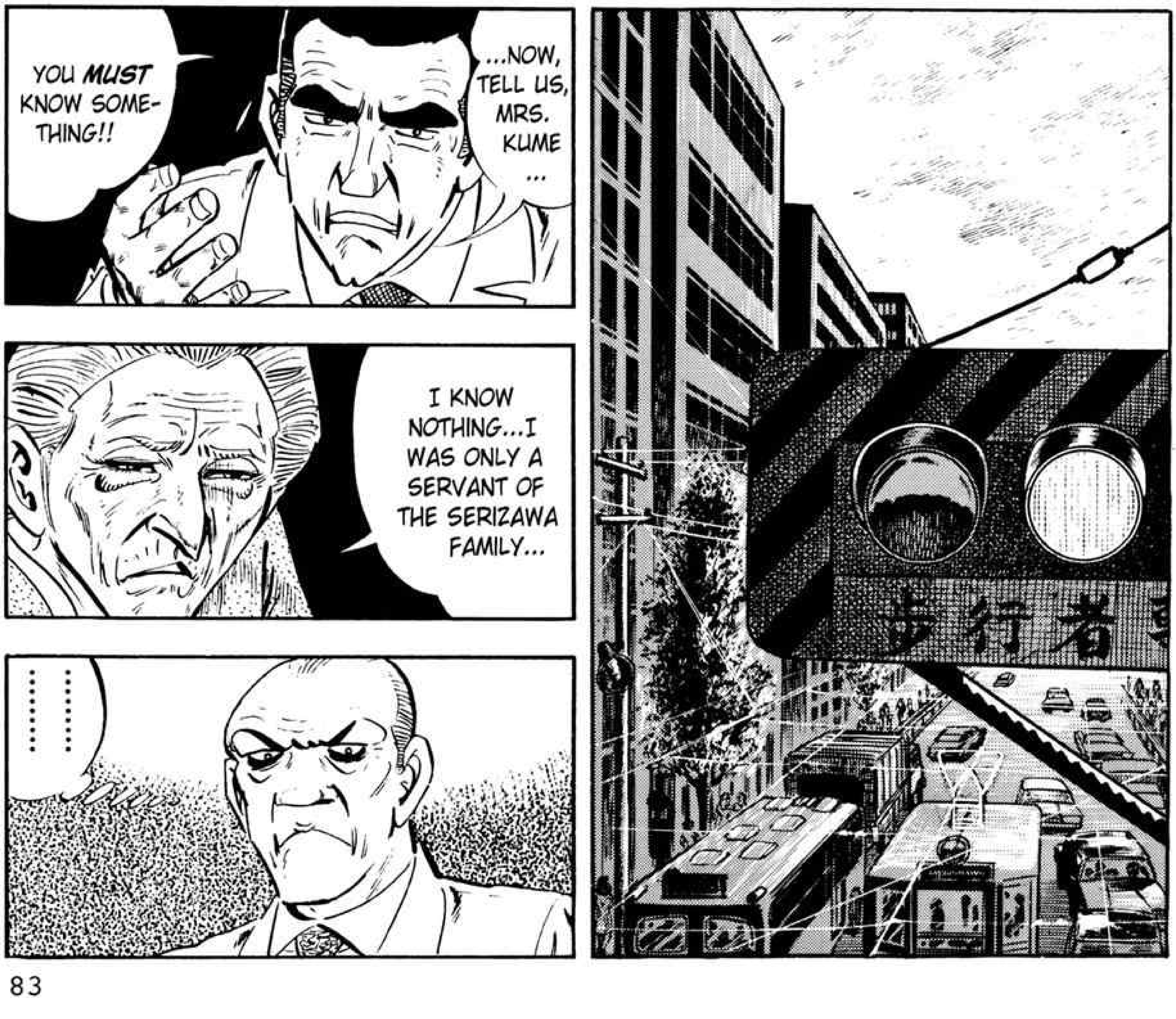


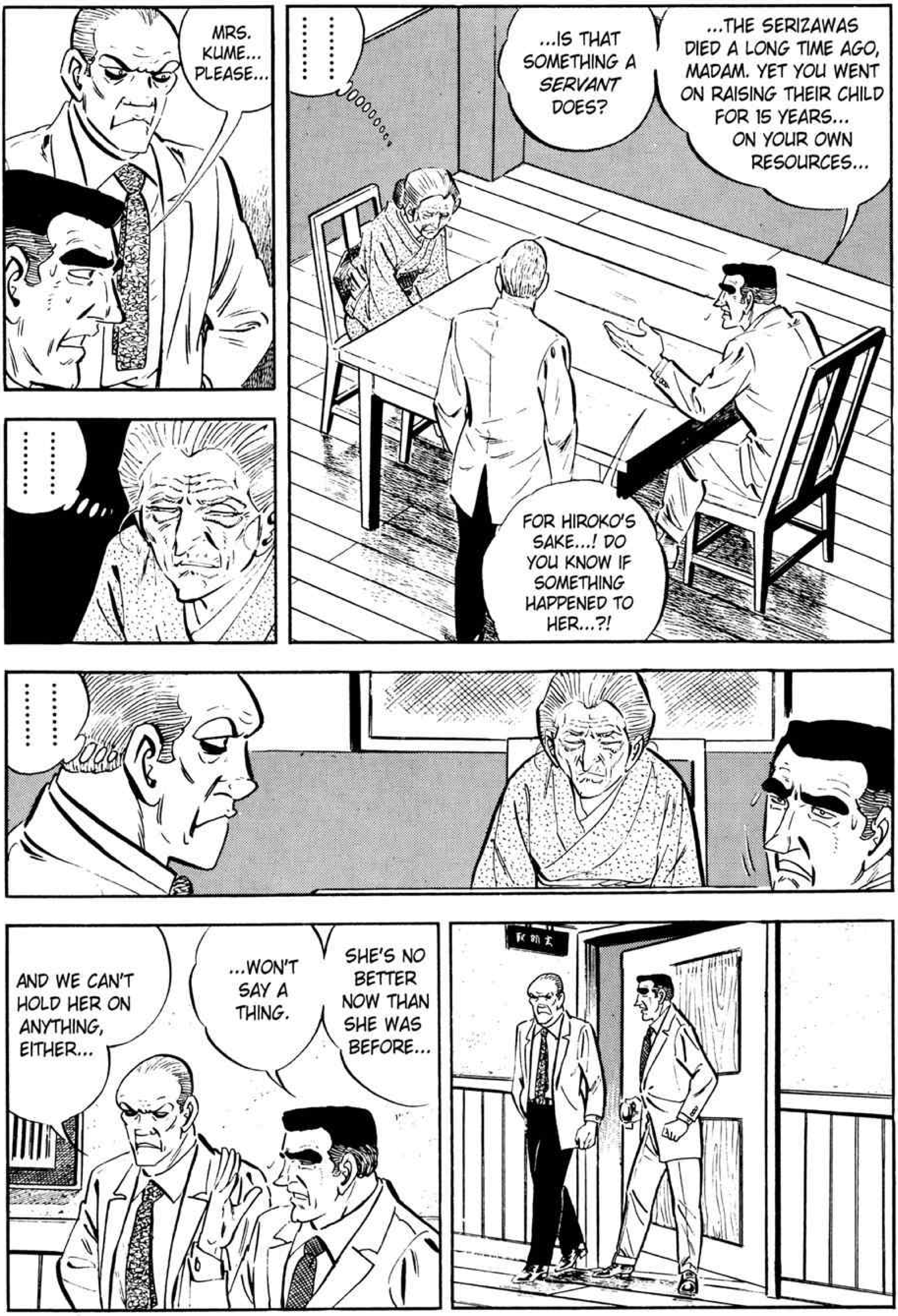

NOT A SIGN, SIR.
GORO, WHERE IS SHE?
WHERE'D SHE GO!?
ARE YOU PUTTING ME ON?
I'VE BEEN IN THIS ROOM, WAITING FOR HER TO SHOW... FOR FIVE HOURS.
THIS YOUR GUYS'S IDEA OF A JOKE?
WHY'D YOU REALLY CALL ME OUT HERE, DETECTIVE...?
WH-*WHAT*?!

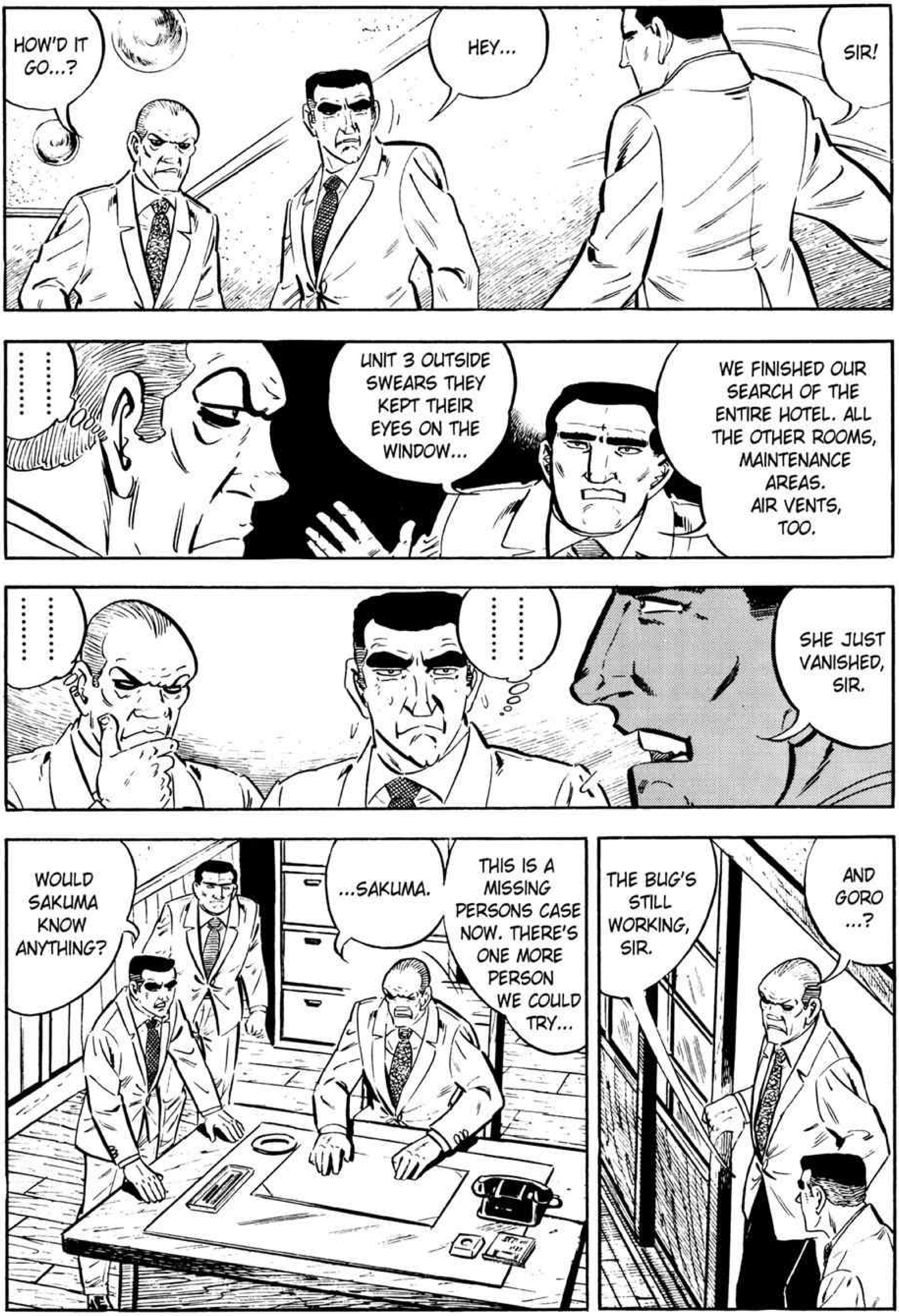

MY MEN SAW HER GO INTO THIS ROOM!
SO... WHEN DID SHE LEAVE IT...?
I CAN GO HOME NOW, RIGHT...?
......
WHAM

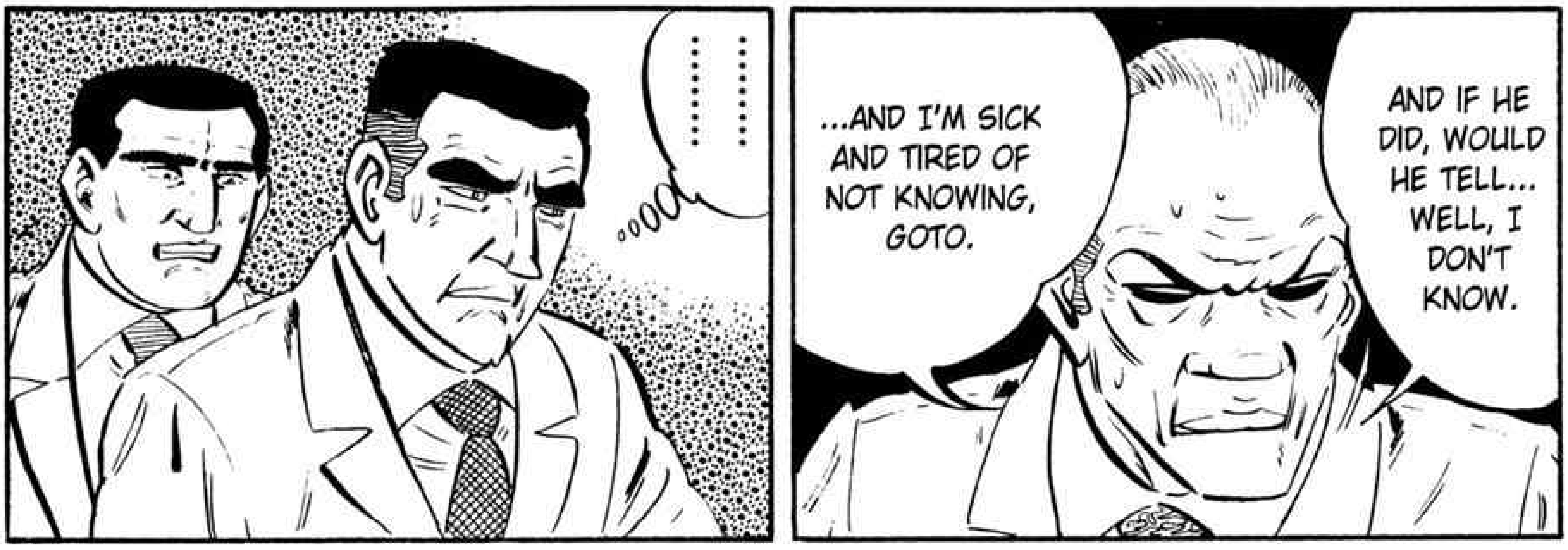

CAPTAIN, I NEVER TOOK MY EYES OFF THE DOOR!
I WAS IN THE ONLY CONNECTING ROOM... SIR, THERE'S NO WAY--
......

PART 11 FOLLOWING THE STRING

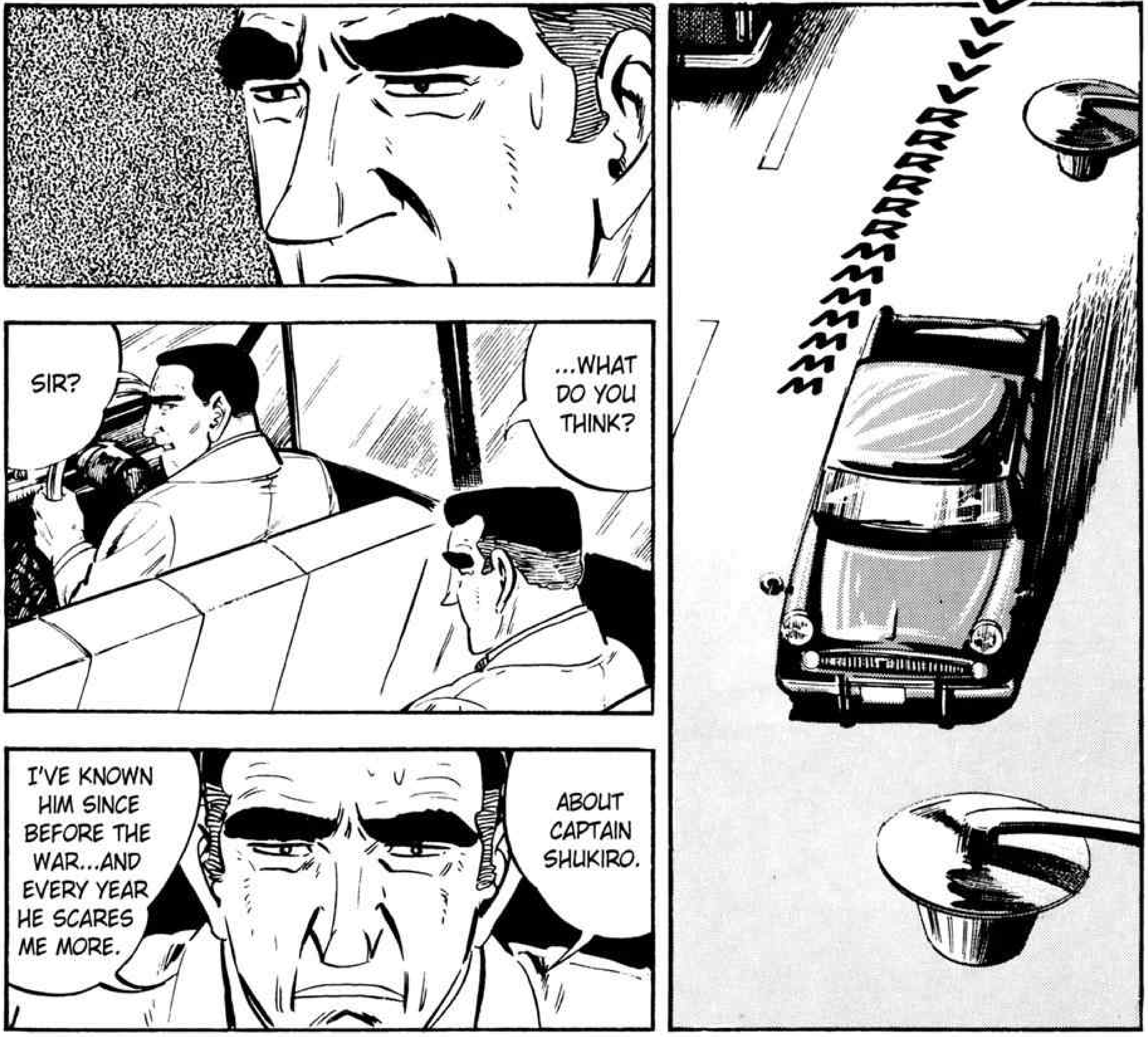

歩行者
...NOW, TELL US, MRS. KUME ...
YOU ***MUST*** KNOW SOME-THING!!
I KNOW NOTHING...I WAS ONLY A SERVANT OF THE SERIZAWA FAMILY...
......

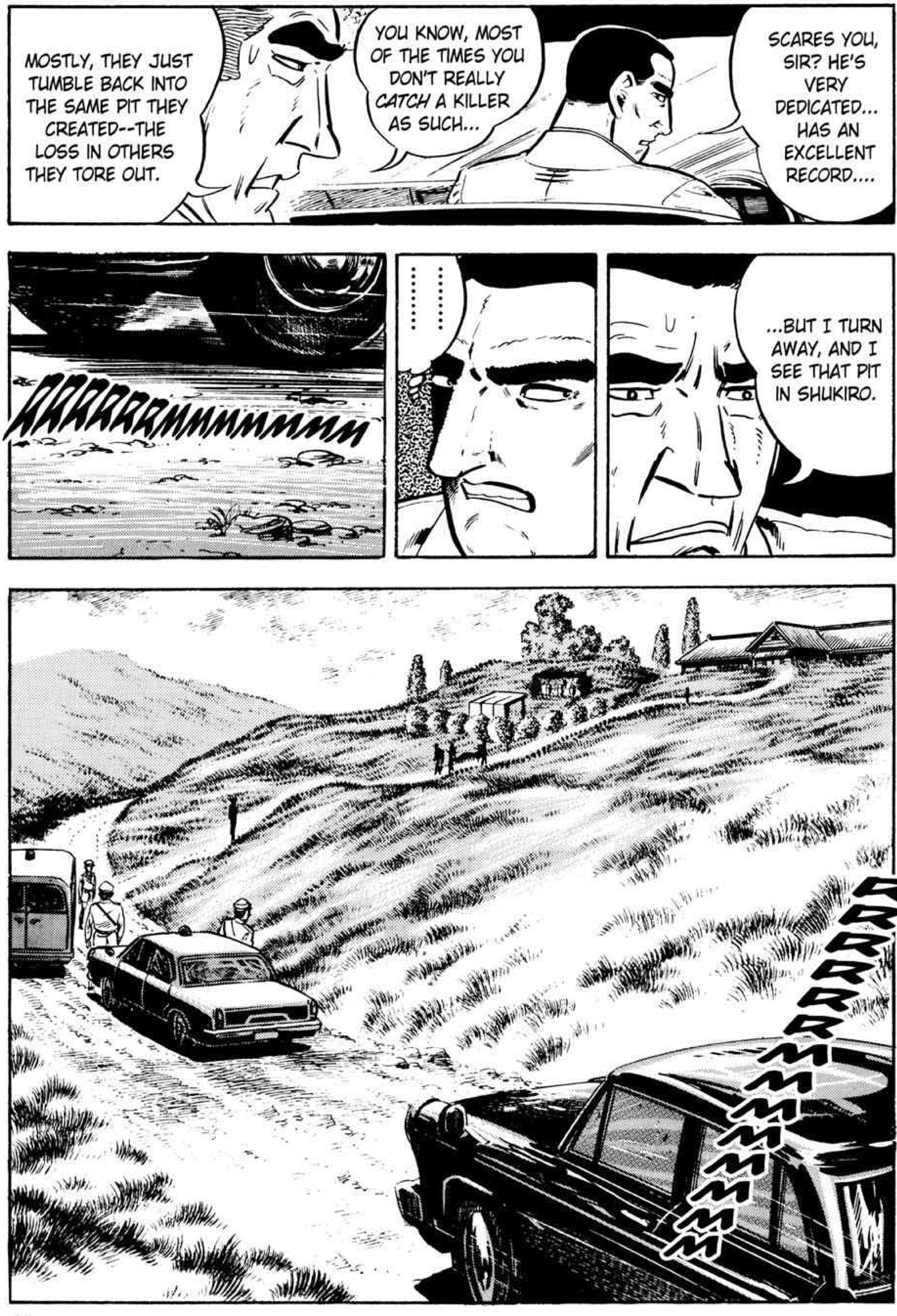

...THE SERIZAWAS DIED A LONG TIME AGO, MADAM. YET YOU WENT ON RAISING THEIR CHILD FOR 15 YEARS... ON YOUR OWN RESOURCES...
...IS THAT SOMETHING A *SERVANT* DOES?
……
FOR HIROKO'S SAKE...! DO YOU KNOW IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HER...?!
MRS. KUME... PLEASE...
……
……
SHE'S NO BETTER NOW THAN SHE WAS BEFORE...
...WON'T SAY A THING.
AND WE CAN'T HOLD HER ON ANYTHING, EITHER...

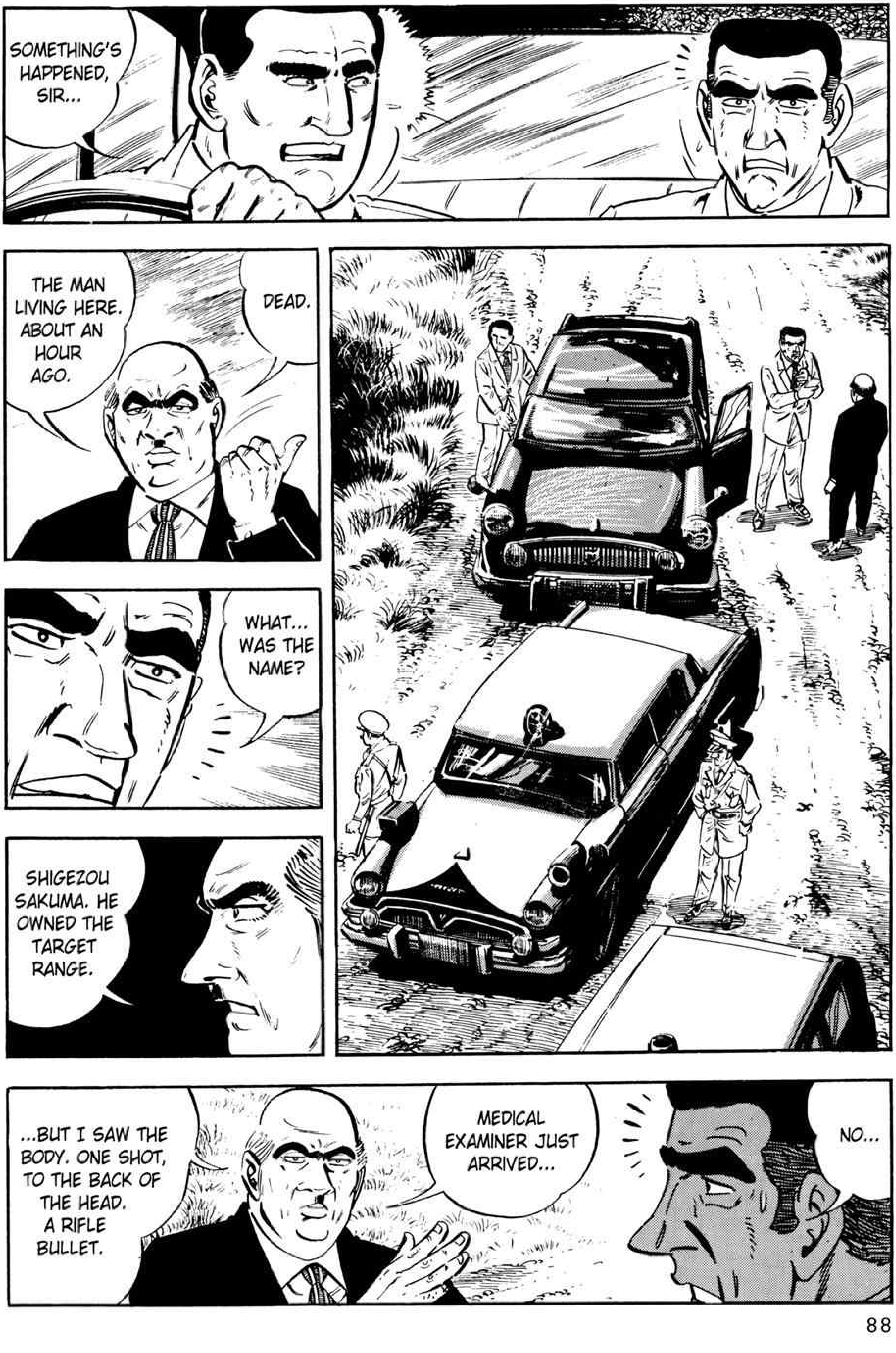

SIR!
HEY...
HOW'D IT GO...?
WE FINISHED OUR SEARCH OF THE ENTIRE HOTEL. ALL THE OTHER ROOMS, MAINTENANCE AREAS. AIR VENTS, TOO.
UNIT 3 OUTSIDE SWEARS THEY KEPT THEIR EYES ON THE WINDOW...
......
SHE JUST VANISHED, SIR.
......
......
AND GORO ...?
THE BUG'S STILL WORKING, SIR.
THIS IS A MISSING PERSONS CASE NOW. THERE'S ONE MORE PERSON WE COULD TRY...
...SAKUMA.
WOULD SAKUMA KNOW ANYTHING?

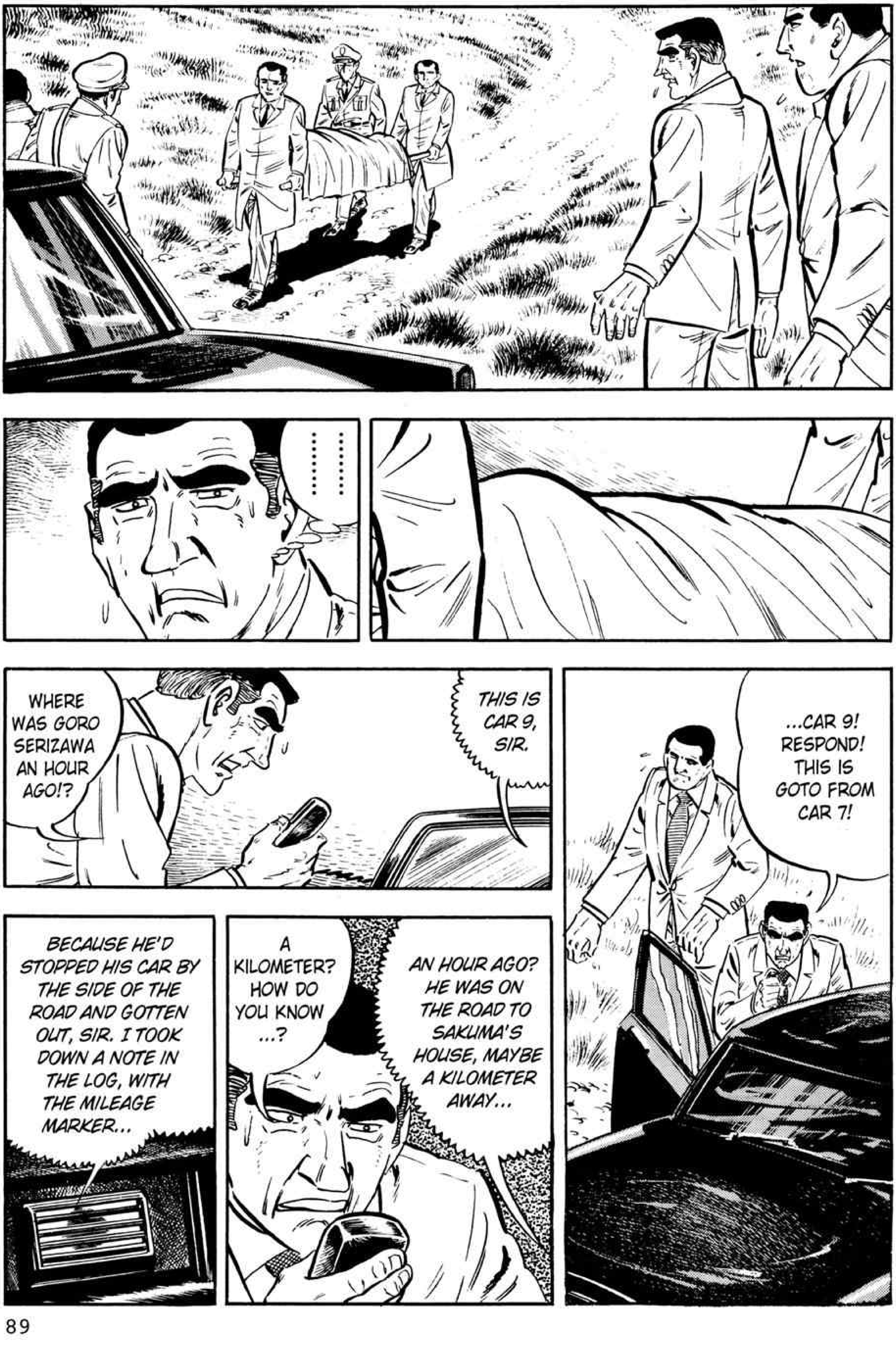

......
AND IF HE DID, WOULD HE TELL... WELL, I DON'T KNOW.
...AND I'M SICK AND TIRED OF NOT KNOWING, GOTO.

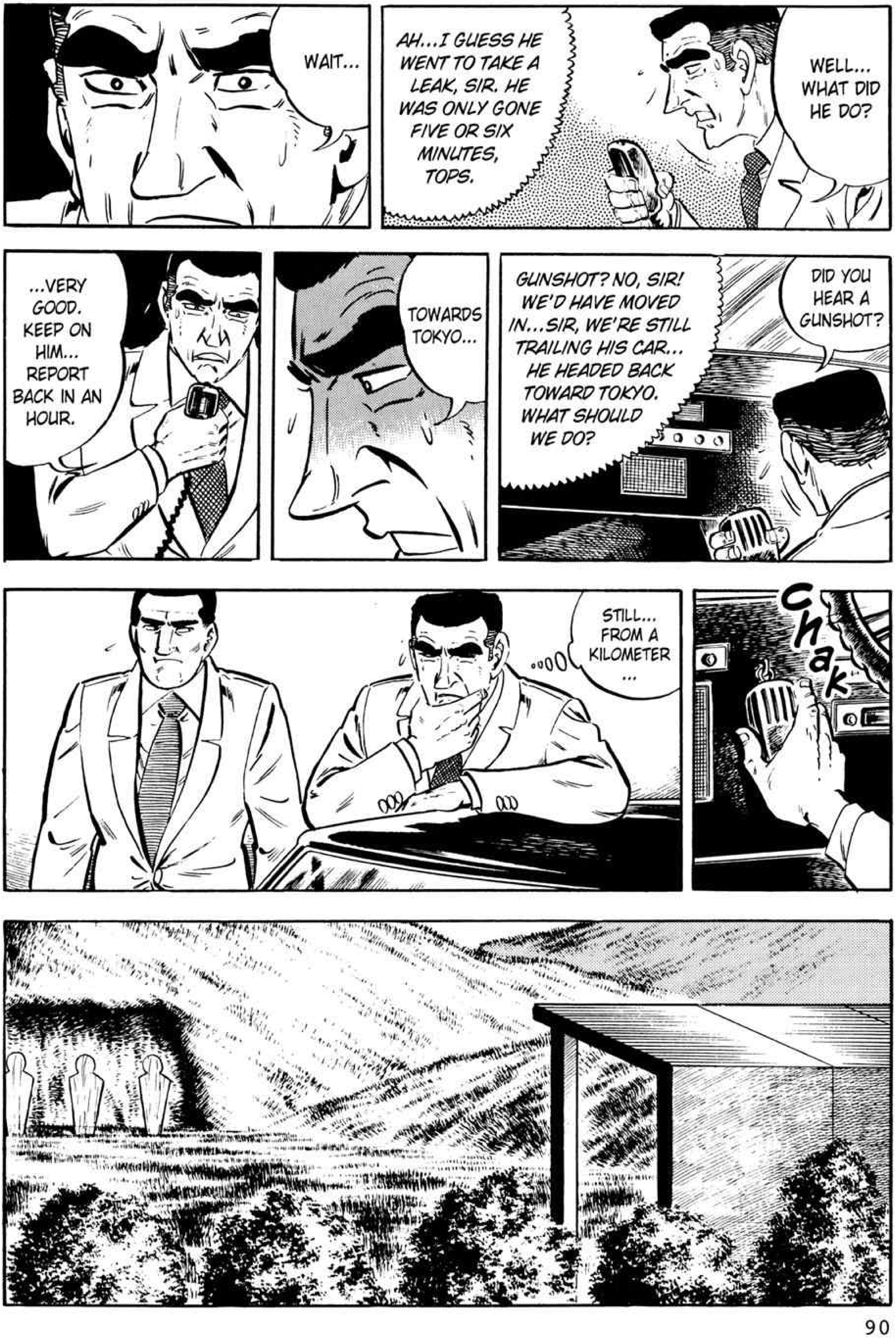
PART 12 SHIGEZOU SAKUMA


VVVVRRRRRRMMMMMMM
...WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SIR?
ABOUT CAPTAIN SHUKIRO.
I'VE KNOWN HIM SINCE BEFORE THE WAR...AND EVERY YEAR HE SCARES ME MORE.


SCARES YOU, SIR? HE'S VERY DEDICATED... HAS AN EXCELLENT RECORD....
YOU KNOW, MOST OF THE TIMES YOU DON'T REALLY *CATCH* A KILLER AS SUCH...
MOSTLY, THEY JUST TUMBLE BACK INTO THE SAME PIT THEY CREATED--THE LOSS IN OTHERS THEY TORE OUT.
...BUT I TURN AWAY, AND I SEE THAT PIT IN SHUKIRO.
......
RRRRRRMMMMMMMMMM
RRRRRRMMMMMMMMMM

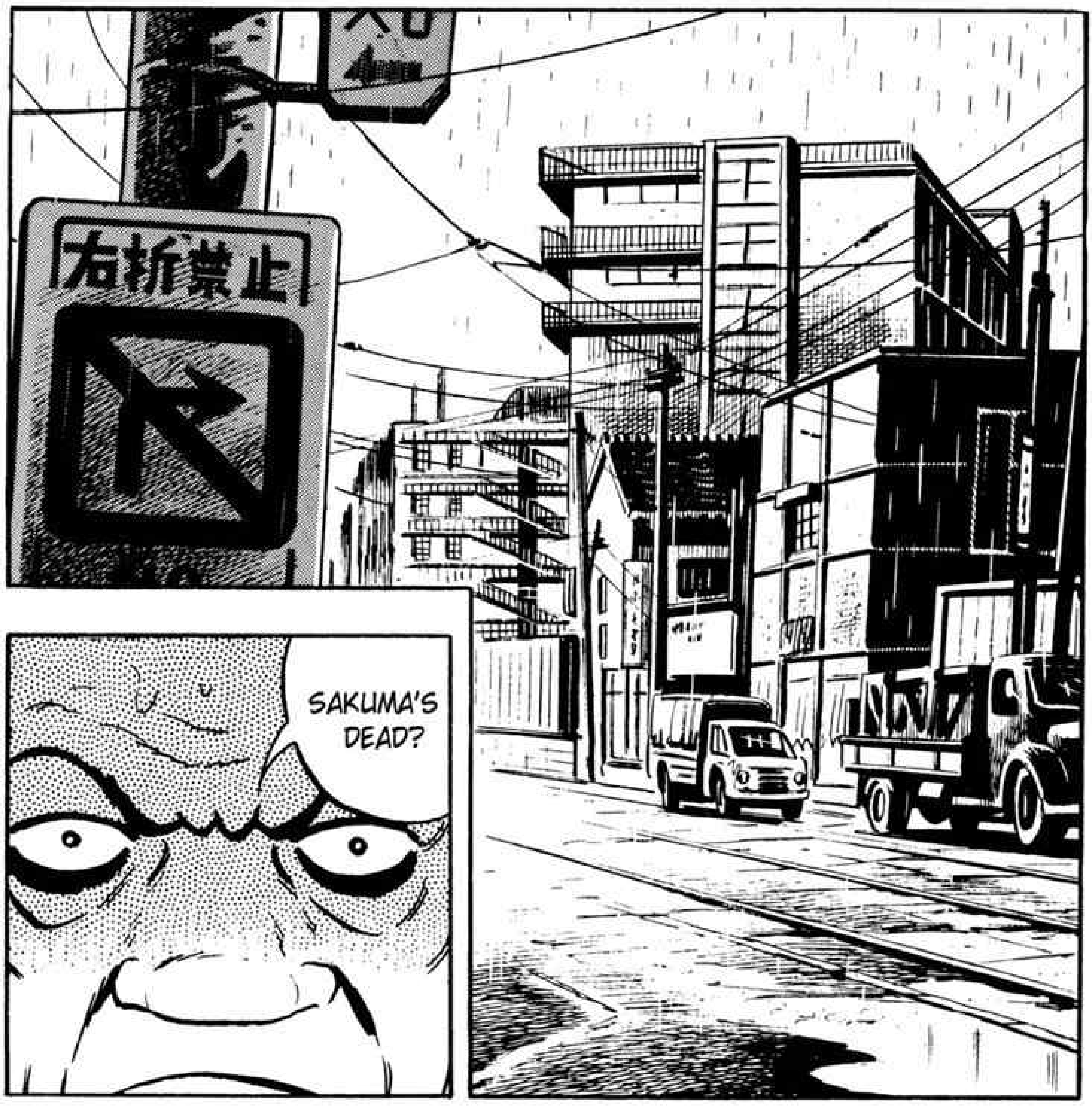

SOMETHING'S HAPPENED, SIR...
DEAD.
THE MAN LIVING HERE. ABOUT AN HOUR AGO.
WHAT... WAS THE NAME?
SHIGEZOU SAKUMA. HE OWNED THE TARGET RANGE.
MEDICAL EXAMINER JUST ARRIVED...
...BUT I SAW THE BODY. ONE SHOT, TO THE BACK OF THE HEAD. A RIFLE BULLET.
NO...

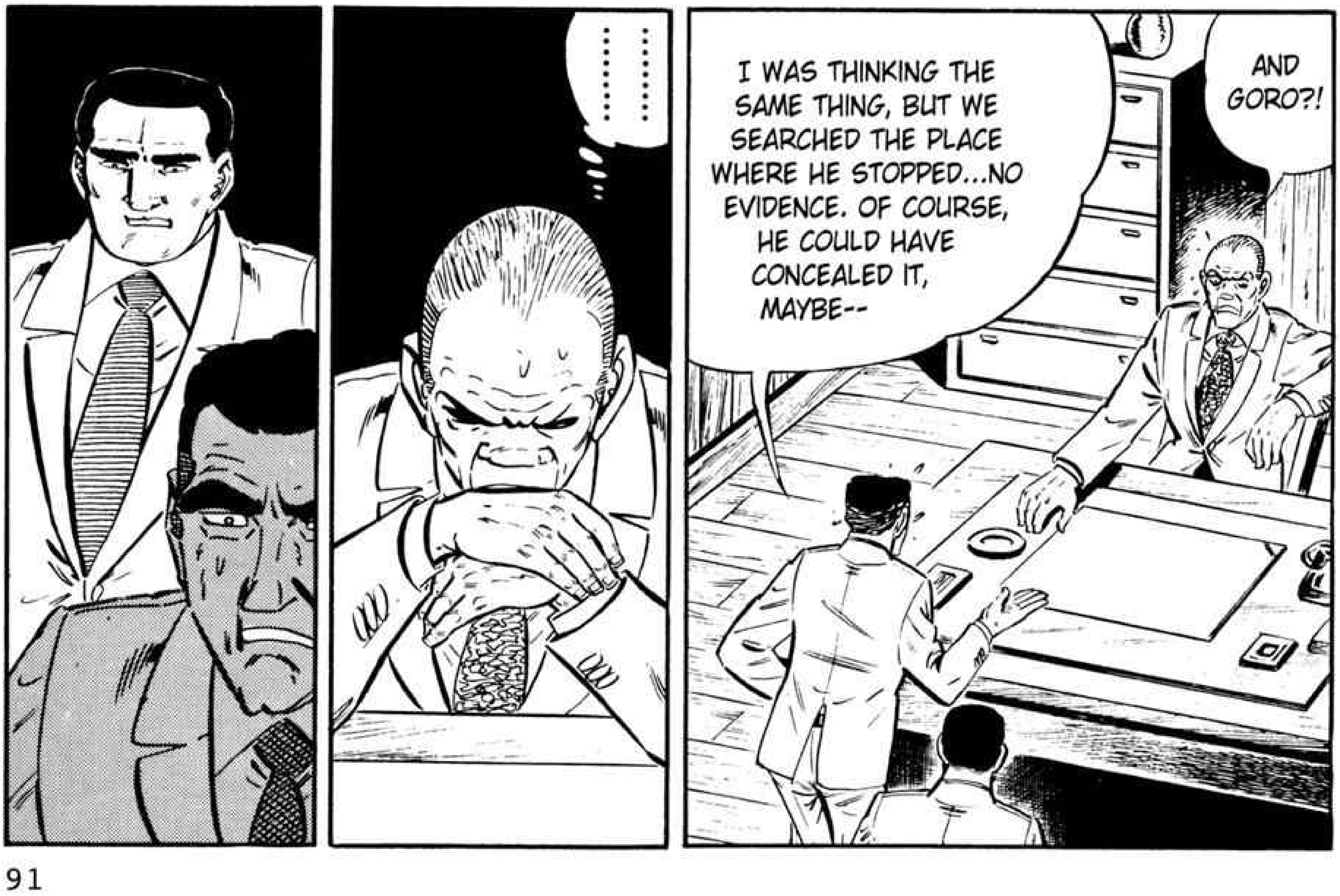

……
……
...CAR 9! RESPOND! THIS IS GOTO FROM CAR 7!
THIS IS CAR 9, SIR.
WHERE WAS GORO SERIZAWA AN HOUR AGO!?
AN HOUR AGO? HE WAS ON THE ROAD TO SAKUMA'S HOUSE, MAYBE A KILOMETER AWAY...
A KILOMETER? HOW DO YOU KNOW ...?
BECAUSE HE'D STOPPED HIS CAR BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AND GOTTEN OUT, SIR. I TOOK DOWN A NOTE IN THE LOG, WITH THE MILEAGE MARKER...

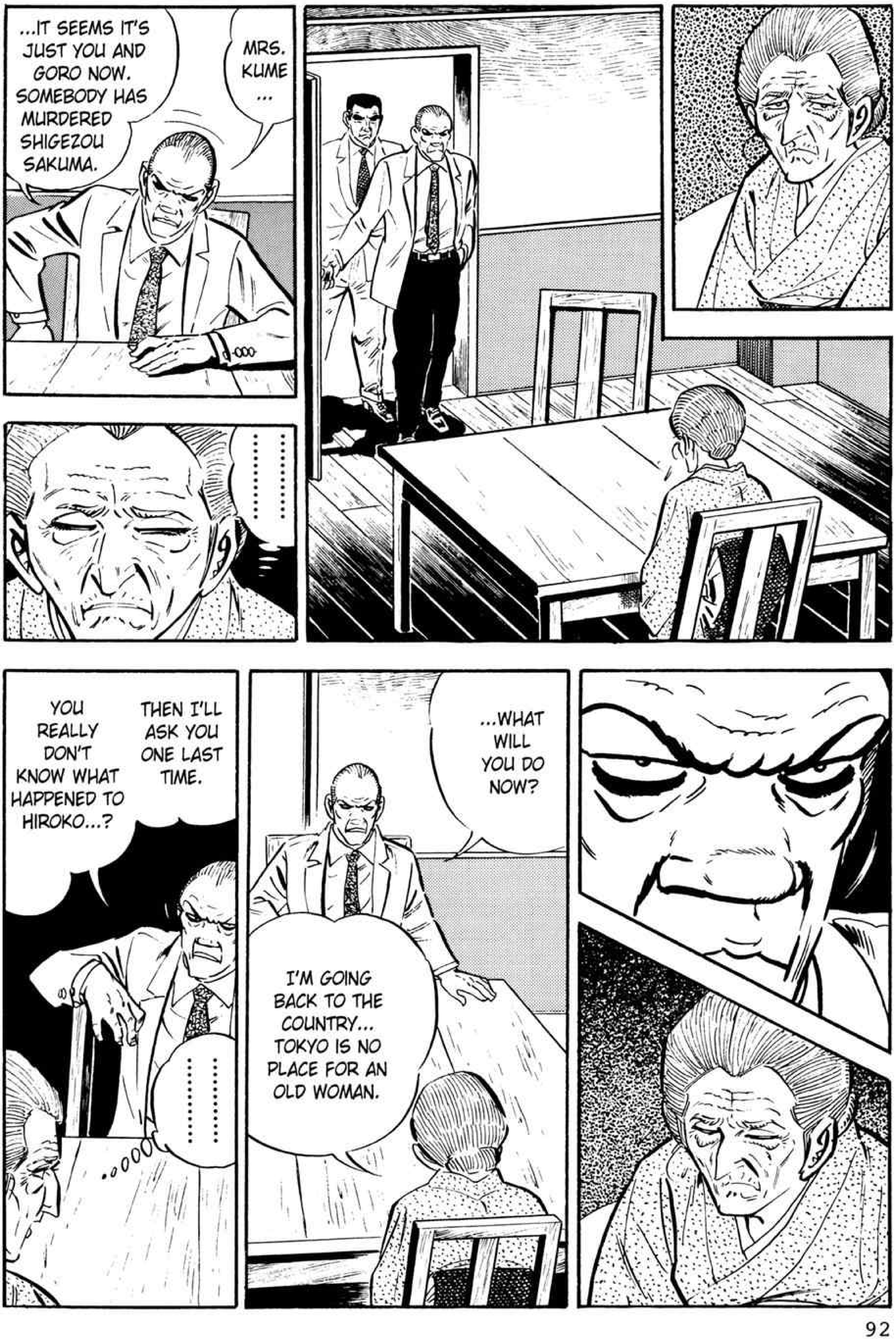

WELL... WHAT DID HE DO?
AH...I GUESS HE WENT TO TAKE A LEAK, SIR. HE WAS ONLY GONE FIVE OR SIX MINUTES, TOPS.
WAIT...
DID YOU HEAR A GUNSHOT?
GUNSHOT? NO, SIR! WE'D HAVE MOVED IN...SIR, WE'RE STILL TRAILING HIS CAR... HE HEADED BACK TOWARD TOKYO. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
TOWARDS TOKYO...
...VERY GOOD. KEEP ON HIM... REPORT BACK IN AN HOUR.
Chak
STILL... FROM A KILOMETER ...

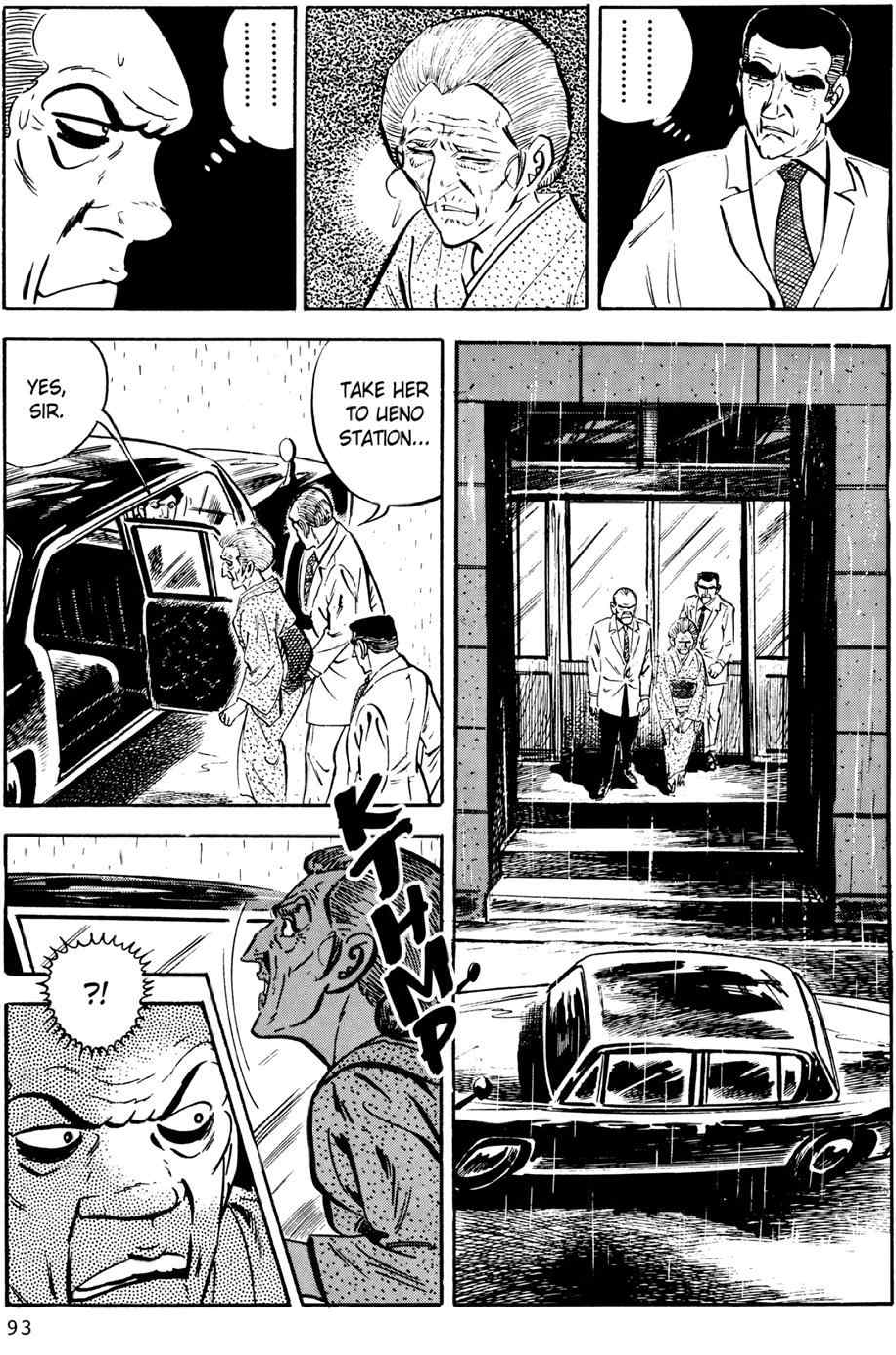
PART 13

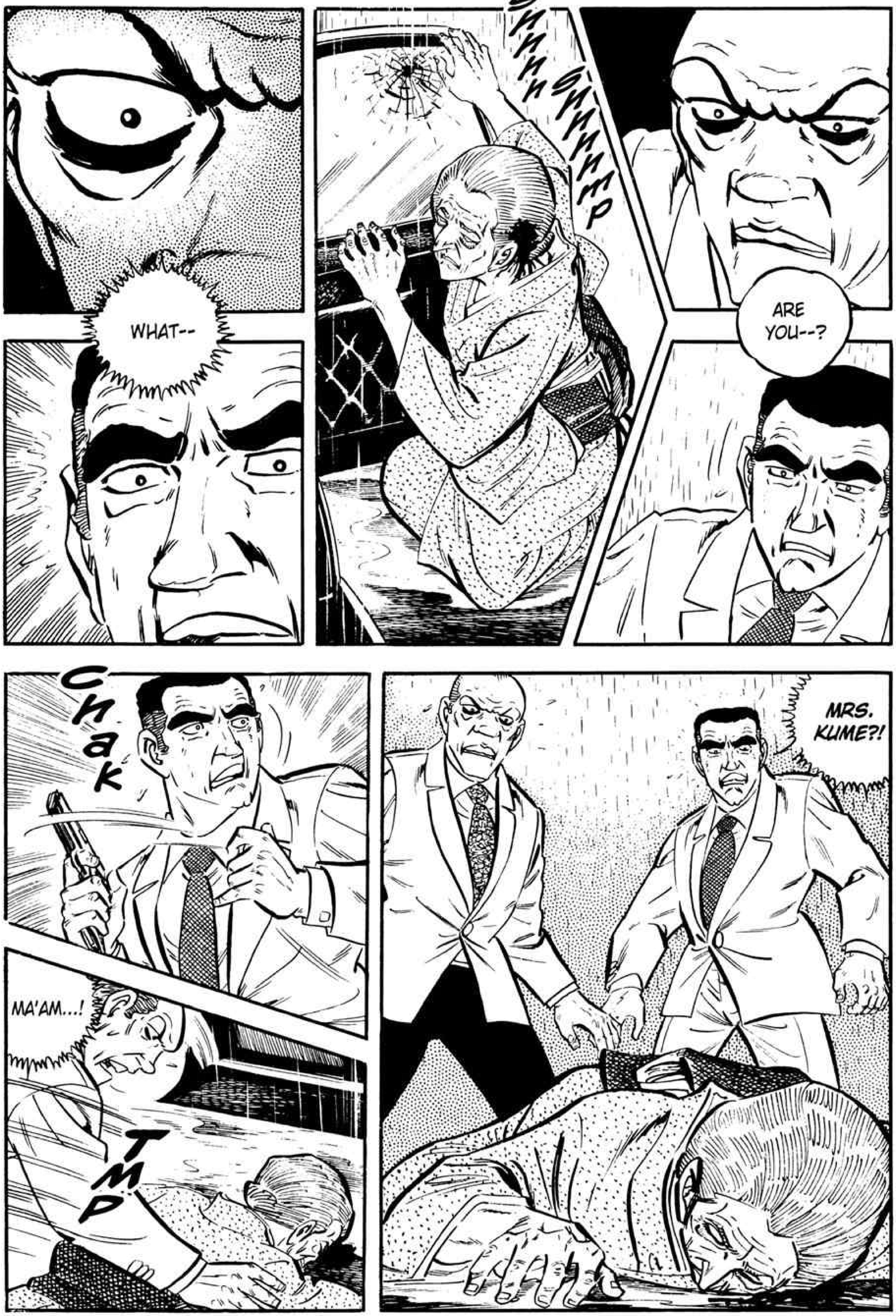
MASTER

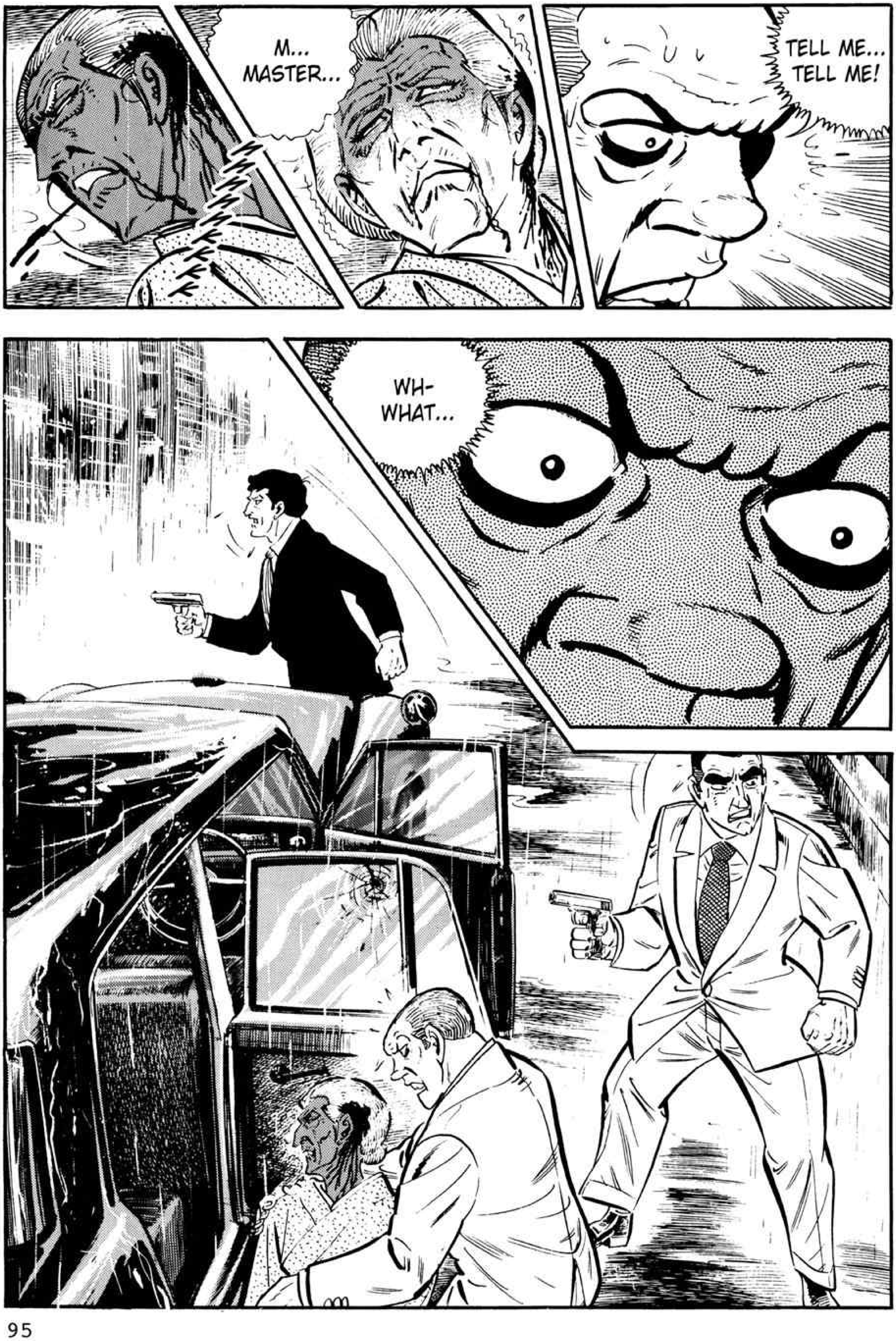

右折禁止
SAKUMA'S DEAD?

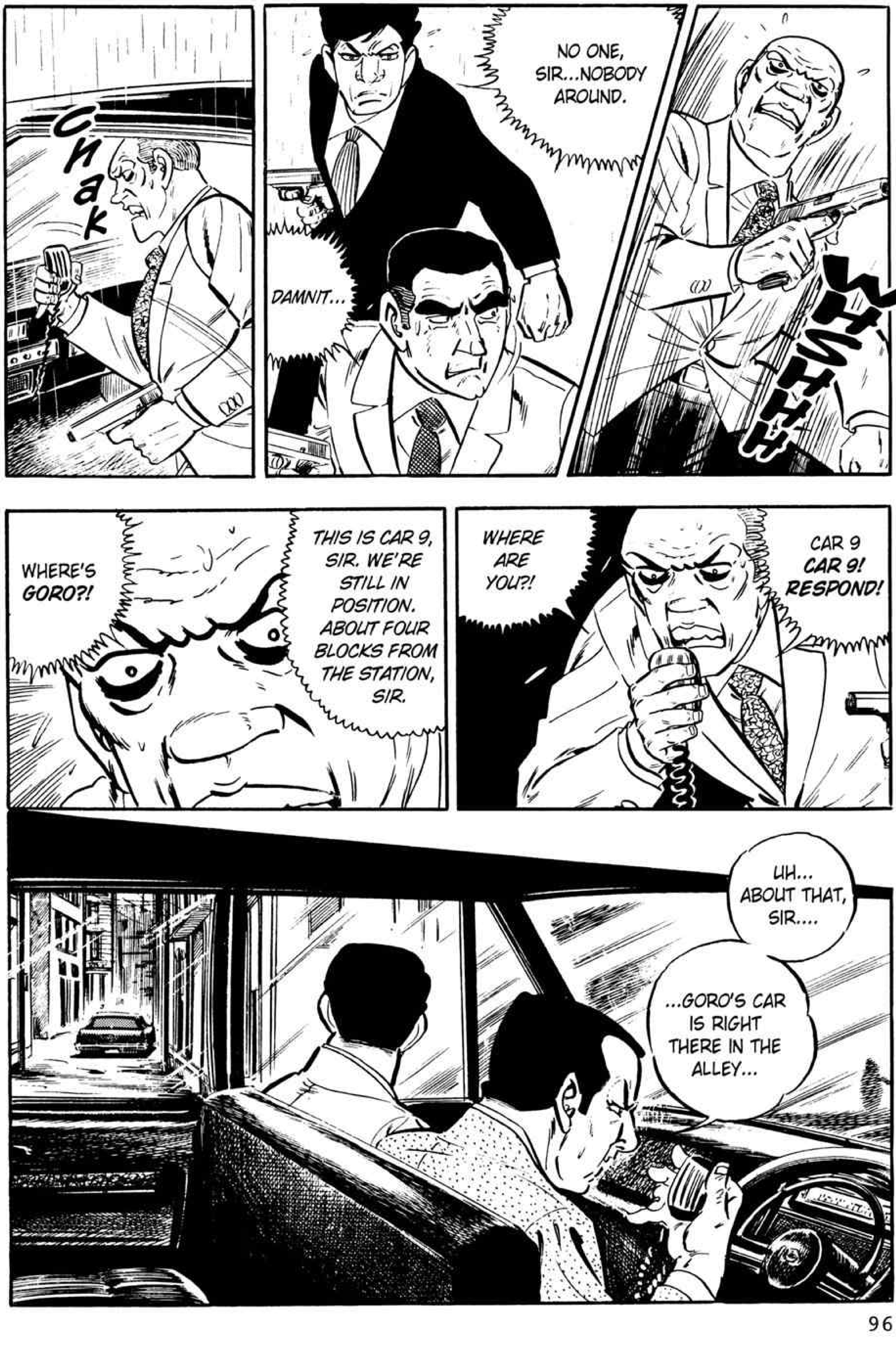

AND GORO?!
I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING, BUT WE SEARCHED THE PLACE WHERE HE STOPPED...NO EVIDENCE. OF COURSE, HE COULD HAVE CONCEALED IT, MAYBE--
....

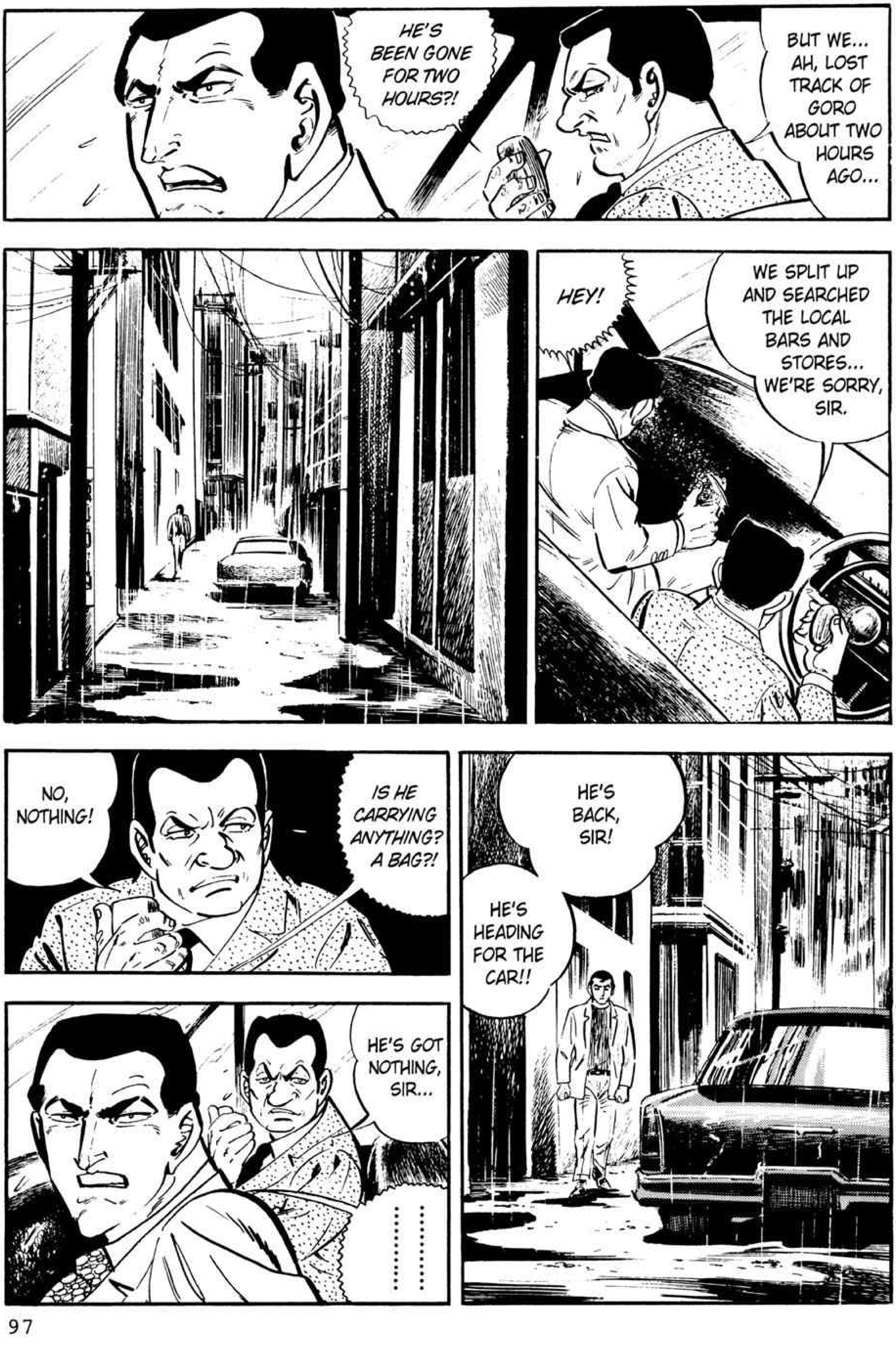

MRS. KUME ...
...IT SEEMS IT'S JUST YOU AND GORO NOW. SOMEBODY HAS MURDERED SHIGEZOU SAKUMA.
......
...WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?
I'M GOING BACK TO THE COUNTRY... TOKYO IS NO PLACE FOR AN OLD WOMAN.
THEN I'LL ASK YOU ONE LAST TIME.
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIROKO...?
......

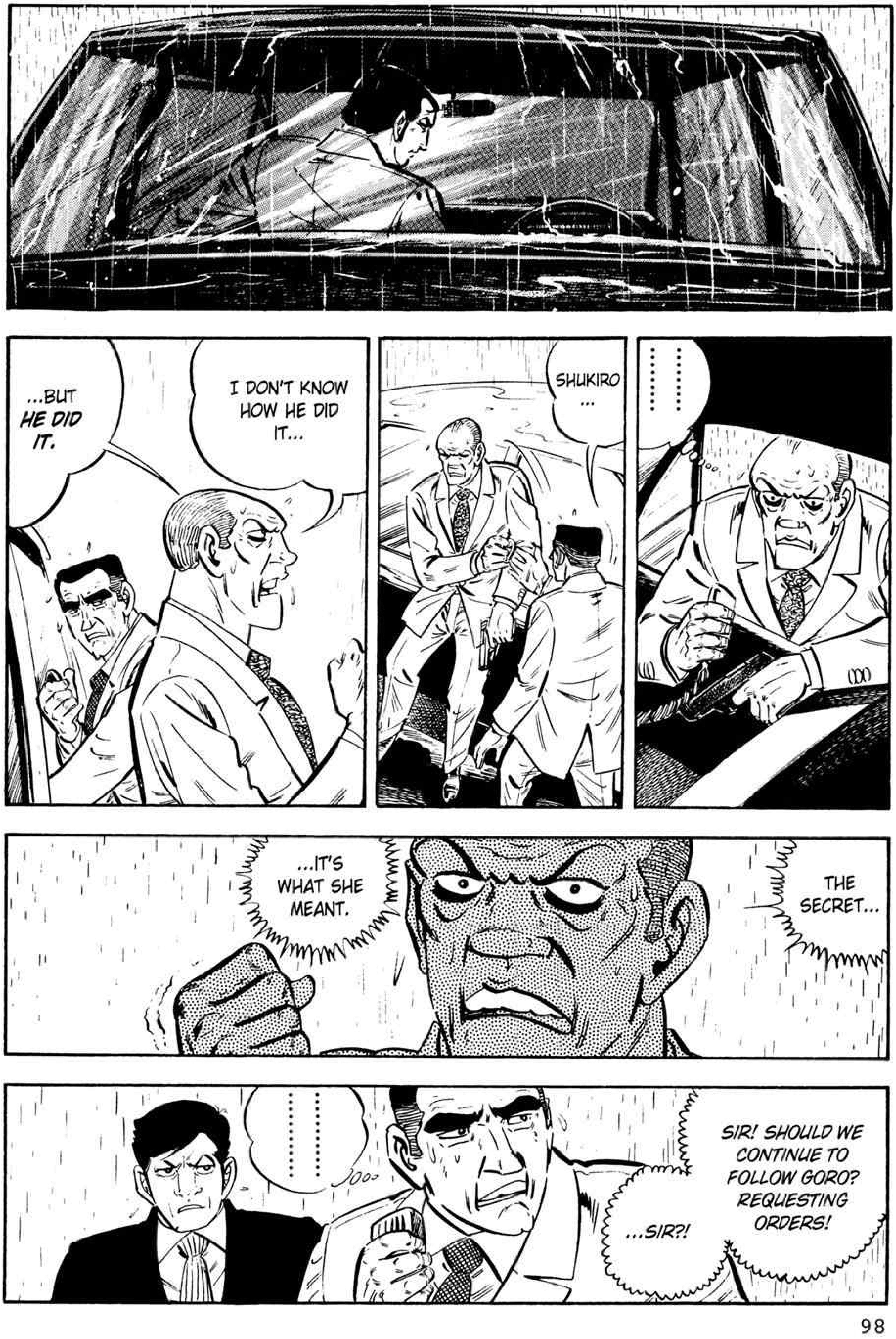

……
……
TAKE HER TO UENO STATION…
YES, SIR.
KTHMP
?!

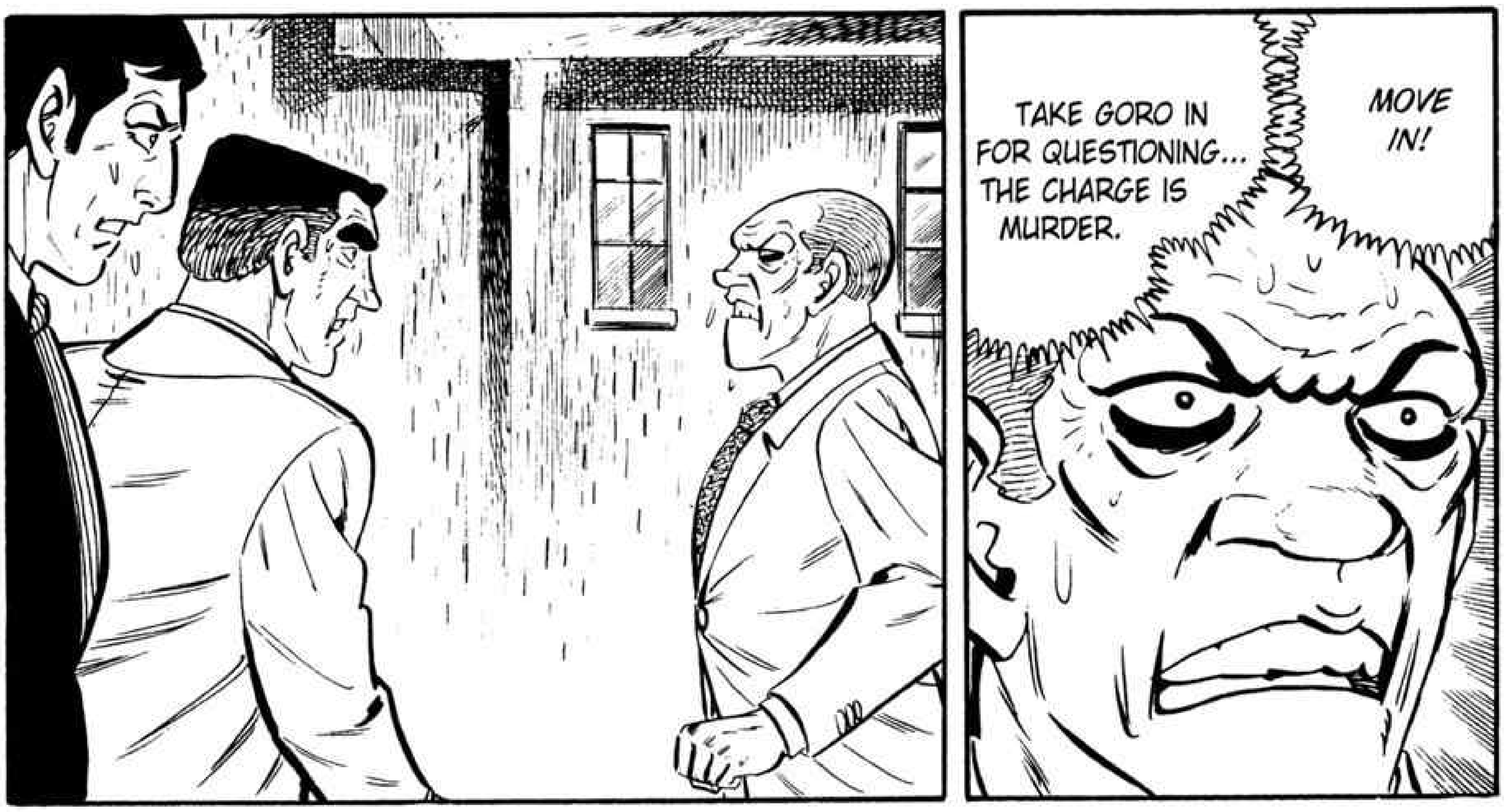

WHAT--
Shhrrr Shhhhhmp
ARE YOU--?
Chak
MA'AM...!
TMP
MRS. KUME?!


M... MASTER...
TELL ME... TELL ME!
WH- WHAT...

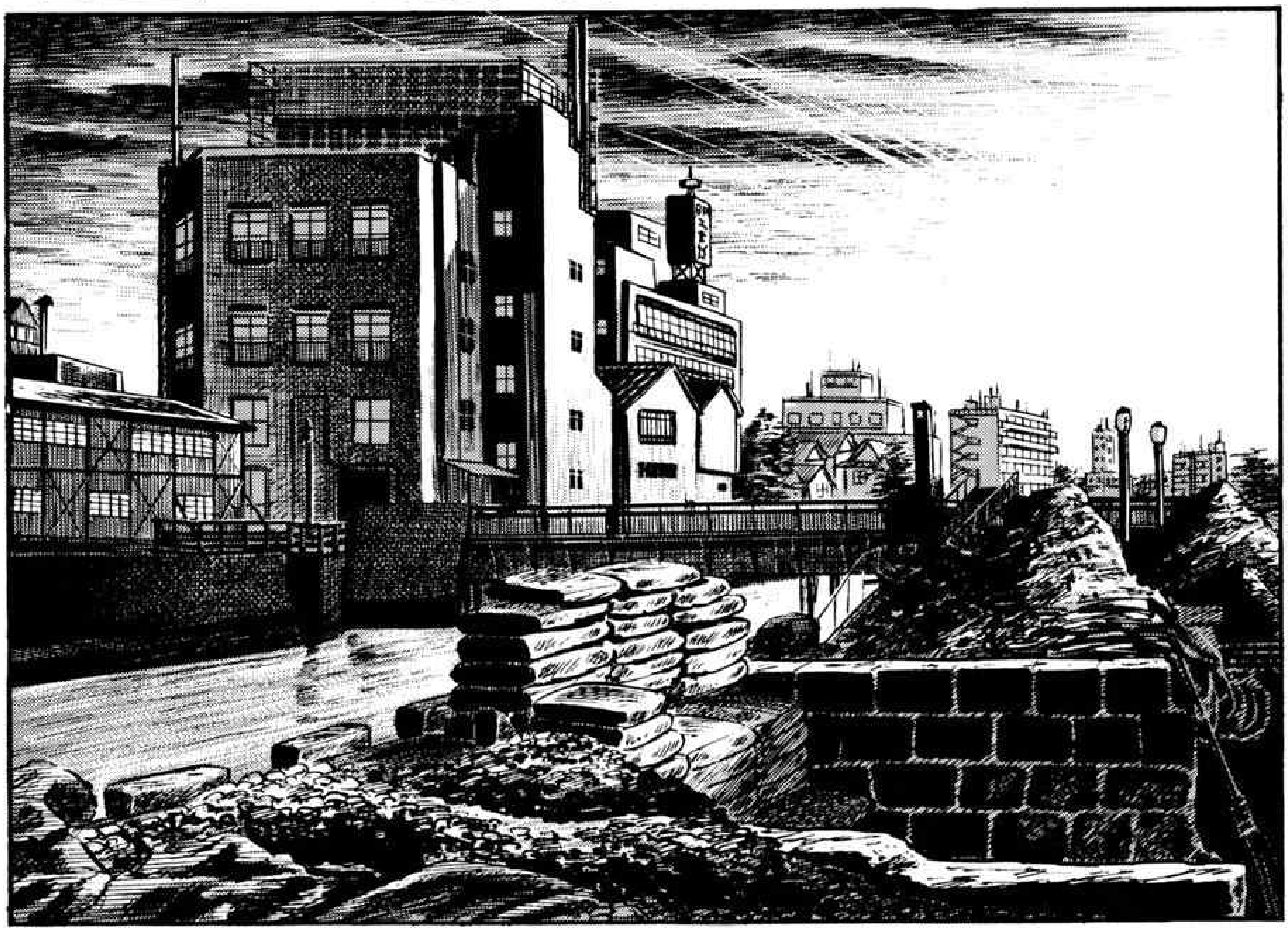

WHSHHHH
NO ONE, SIR...NOBODY AROUND.
DAMNIT...
Cnak
CAR 9 CAR 9! RESPOND!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
THIS IS CAR 9, SIR. WE'RE STILL IN POSITION. ABOUT FOUR BLOCKS FROM THE STATION, SIR.
WHERE'S GORO?!
UH... ABOUT THAT, SIR....
...GORO'S CAR IS RIGHT THERE IN THE ALLEY...

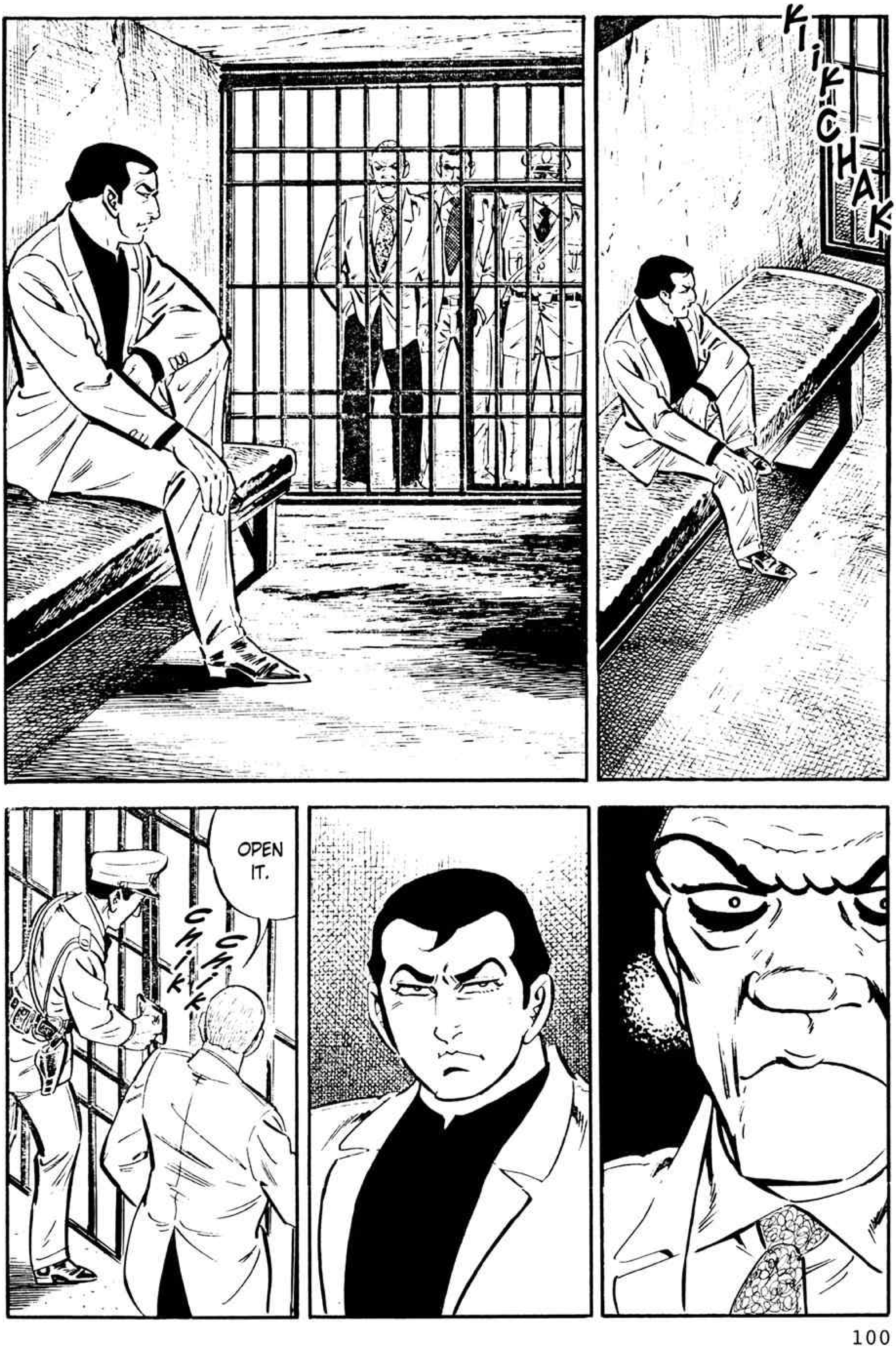

BUT WE... AH, LOST TRACK OF GORO ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO...
HE'S BEEN GONE FOR TWO HOURS?!
WE SPLIT UP AND SEARCHED THE LOCAL BARS AND STORES... WE'RE SORRY, SIR.
HEY!
HE'S BACK, SIR!
HE'S HEADING FOR THE CAR!!
IS HE CARRYING ANYTHING? A BAG?!
NO, NOTHING!
HE'S GOT NOTHING, SIR...
......
......

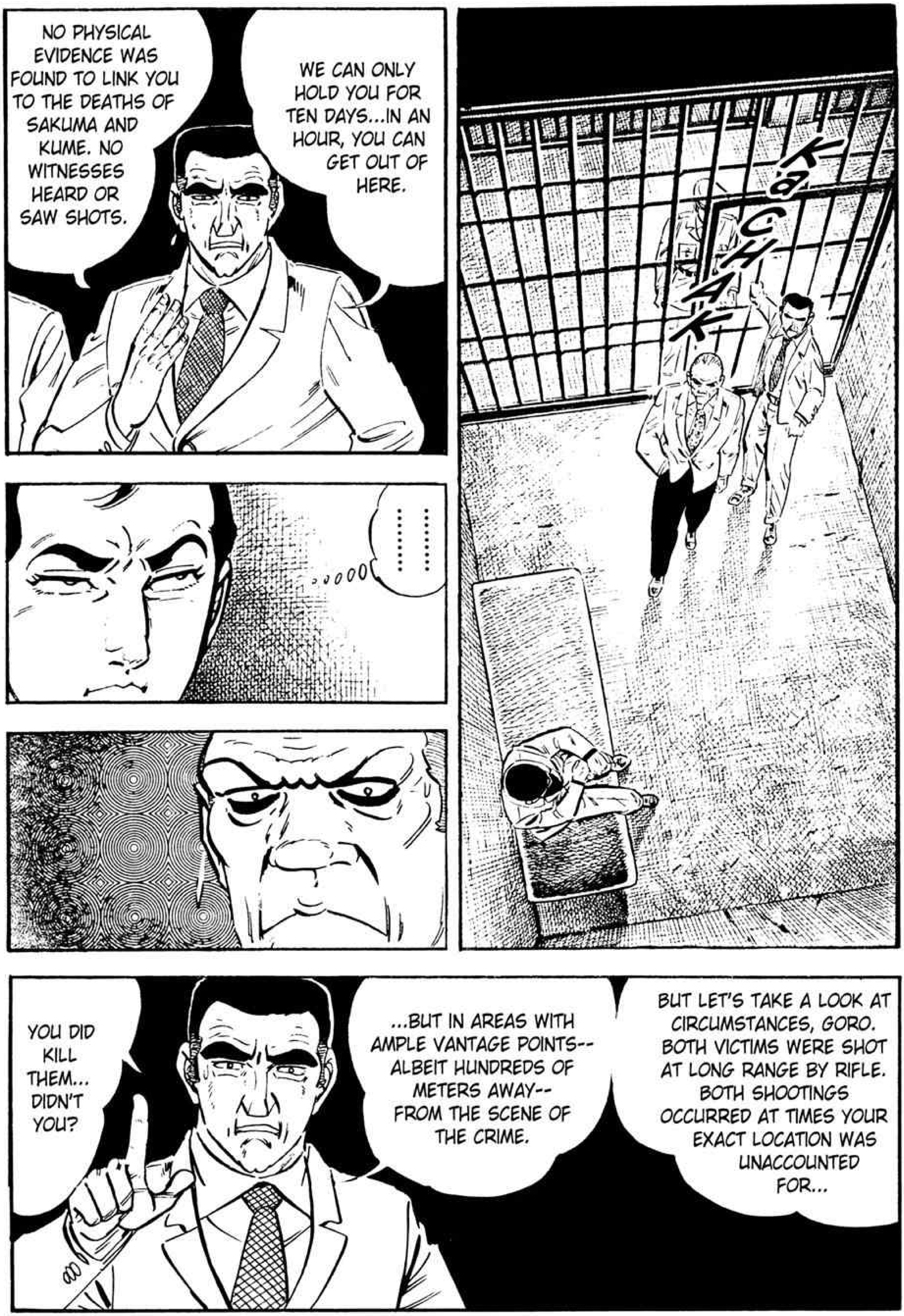

……
SHUKIRO ...
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE DID IT...
...BUT *HE DID IT.*
THE SECRET...
...IT'S WHAT SHE MEANT.
SIR! SHOULD WE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW GORO? REQUESTING ORDERS!
...SIR?!
……

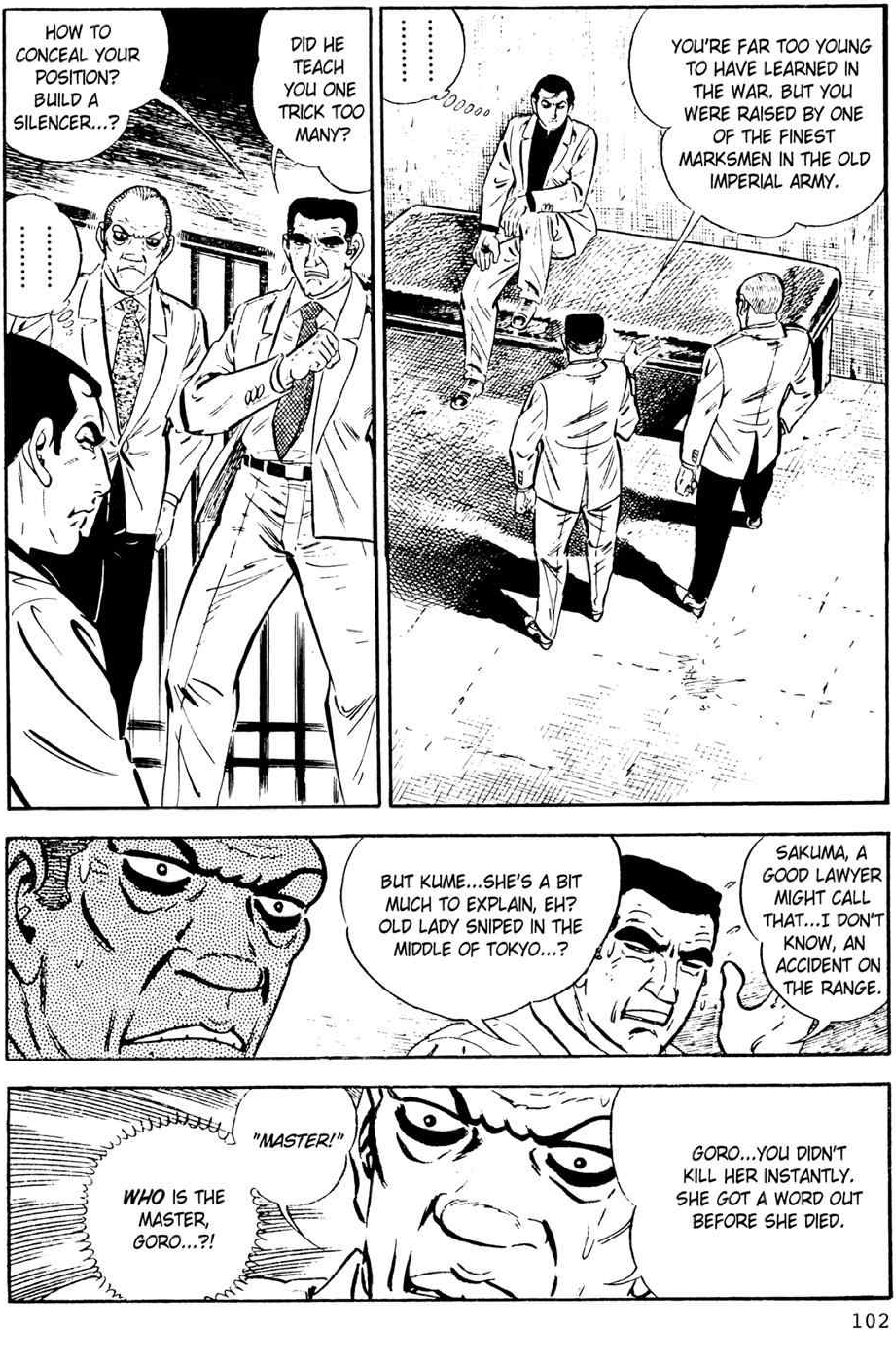

TAKE GORO IN FOR QUESTIONING... THE CHARGE IS MURDER.
MOVE IN!

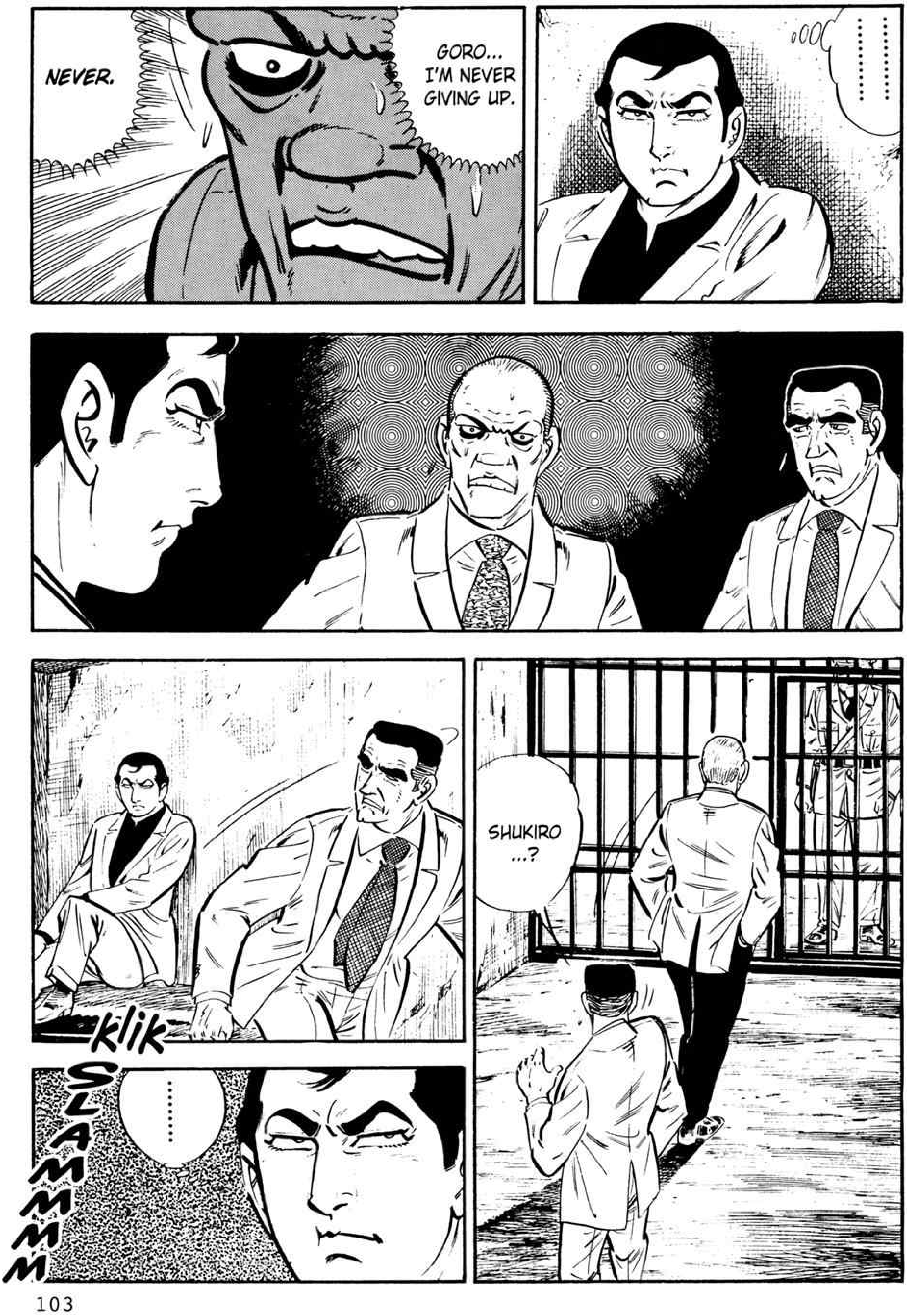
PART 14 DEPARTURE

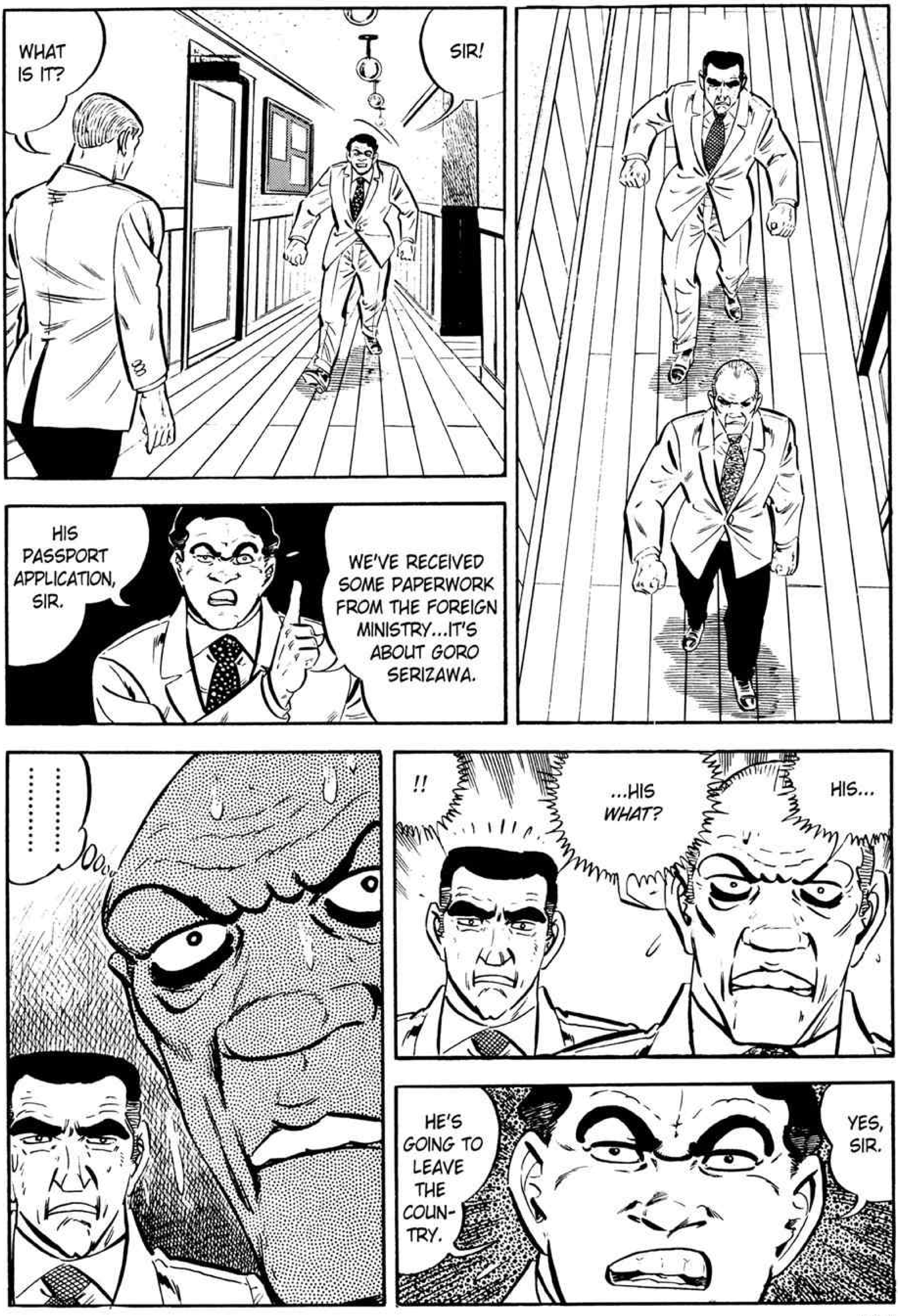


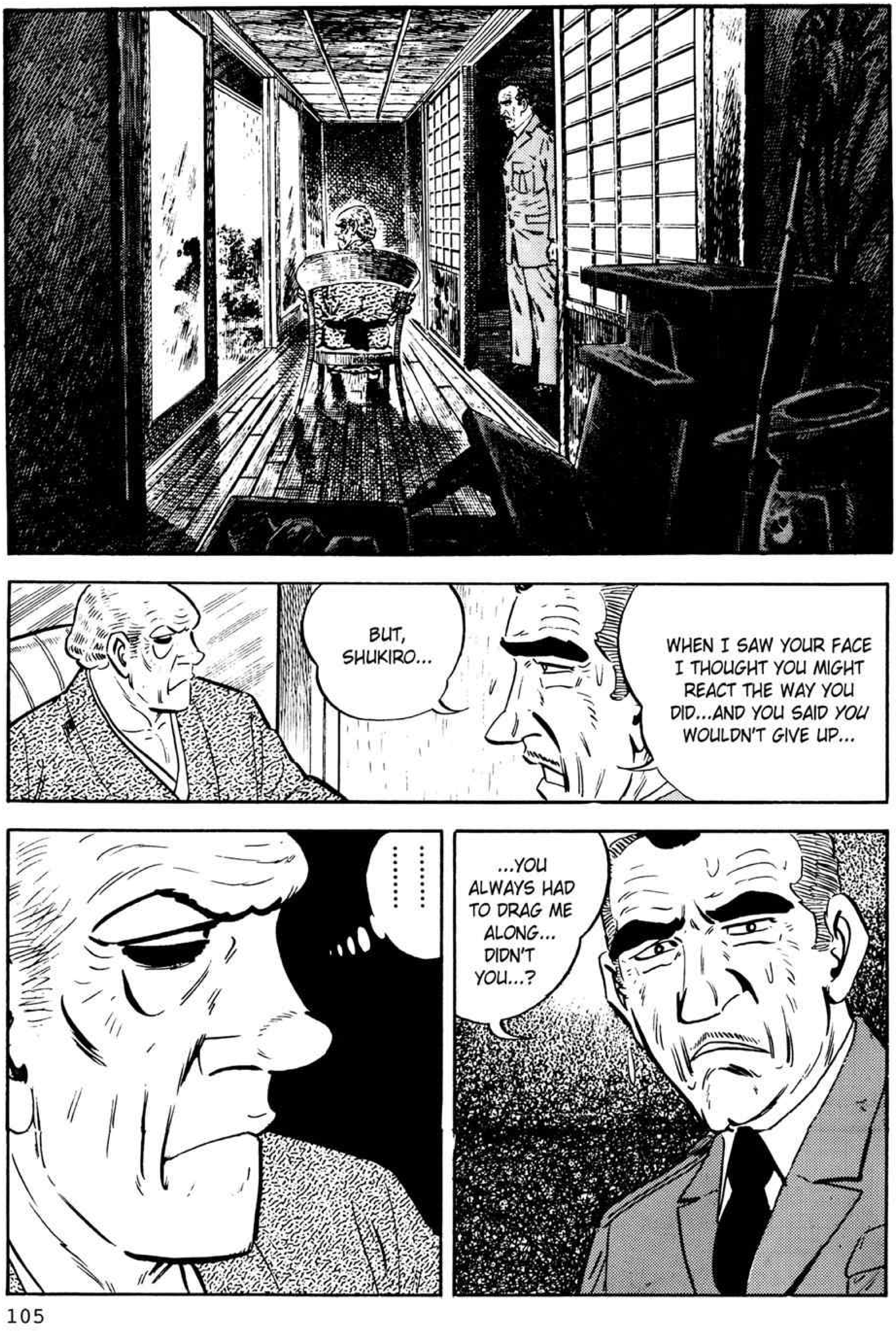

KIKCHAK
OPEN IT.
CHIK
CHIK

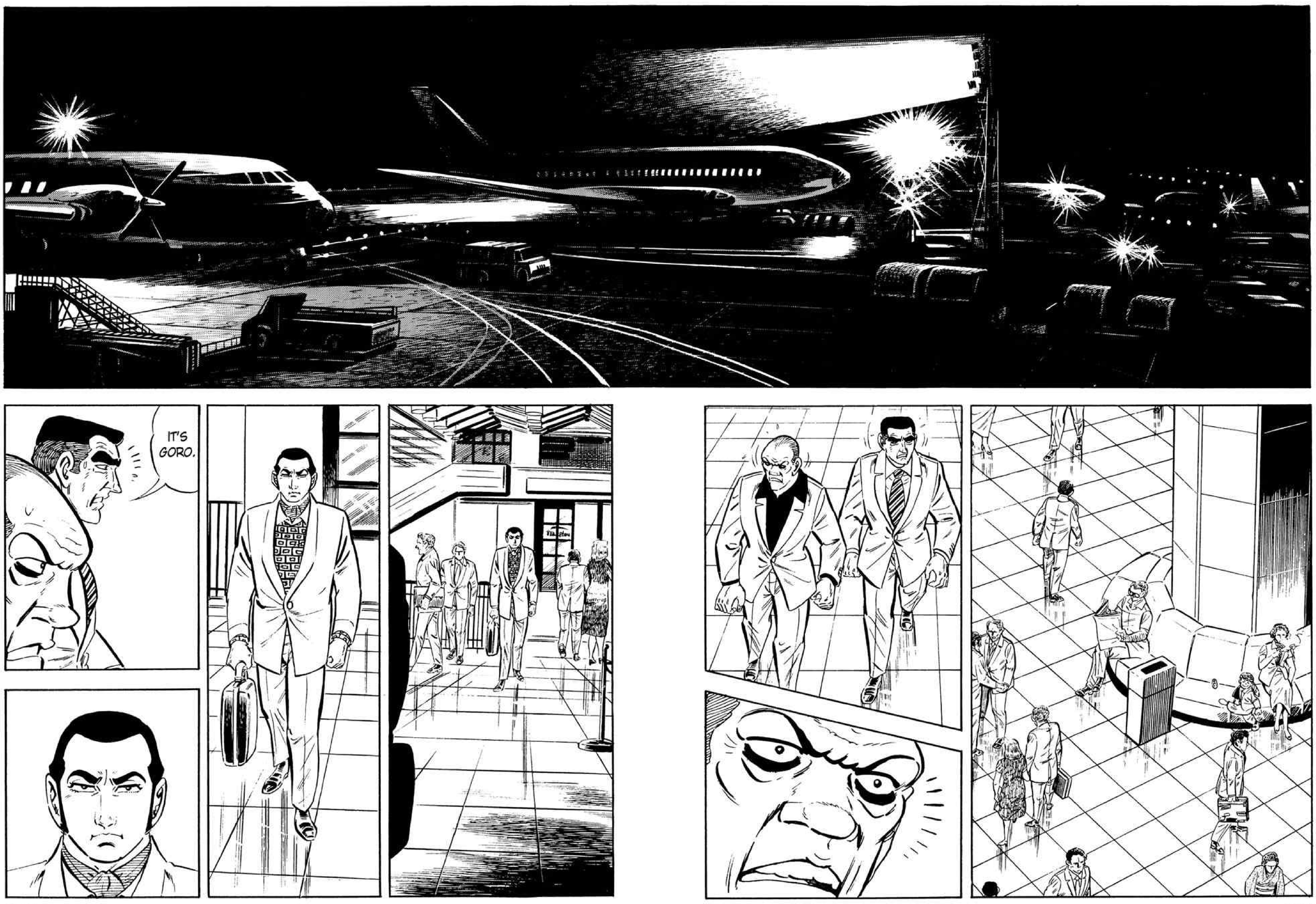

KACHAK
WE CAN ONLY HOLD YOU FOR TEN DAYS...IN AN HOUR, YOU CAN GET OUT OF HERE.
NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE WAS FOUND TO LINK YOU TO THE DEATHS OF SAKUMA AND KUME. NO WITNESSES HEARD OR SAW SHOTS.
......
BUT LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT CIRCUMSTANCES, GORO. BOTH VICTIMS WERE SHOT AT LONG RANGE BY RIFLE. BOTH SHOOTINGS OCCURRED AT TIMES YOUR EXACT LOCATION WAS UNACCOUNTED FOR...
...BUT IN AREAS WITH AMPLE VANTAGE POINTS--ALBEIT HUNDREDS OF METERS AWAY--FROM THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.
YOU DID KILL THEM... DIDN'T YOU?

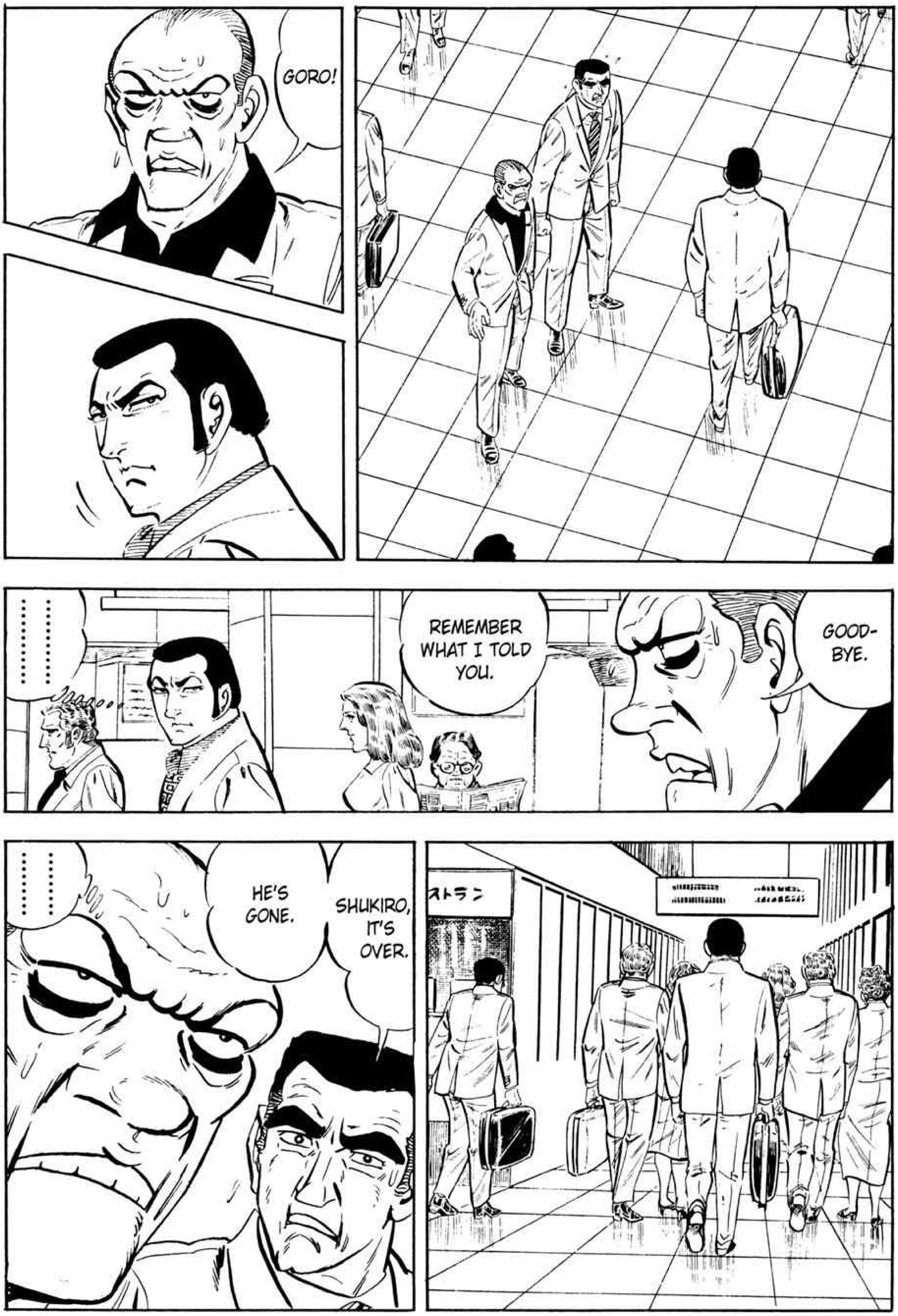

YOU'RE FAR TOO YOUNG TO HAVE LEARNED IN THE WAR. BUT YOU WERE RAISED BY ONE OF THE FINEST MARKSMEN IN THE OLD IMPERIAL ARMY.
......
HOW TO CONCEAL YOUR POSITION? BUILD A SILENCER...?
DID HE TEACH YOU ONE TRICK TOO MANY?
......
SAKUMA, A GOOD LAWYER MIGHT CALL THAT...I DON'T KNOW, AN ACCIDENT ON THE RANGE.
BUT KUME...SHE'S A BIT MUCH TO EXPLAIN, EH? OLD LADY SNIPED IN THE MIDDLE OF TOKYO...?
GORO...YOU DIDN'T KILL HER INSTANTLY. SHE GOT A WORD OUT BEFORE SHE DIED.
"MASTER!"
WHO IS THE MASTER, GORO...?!

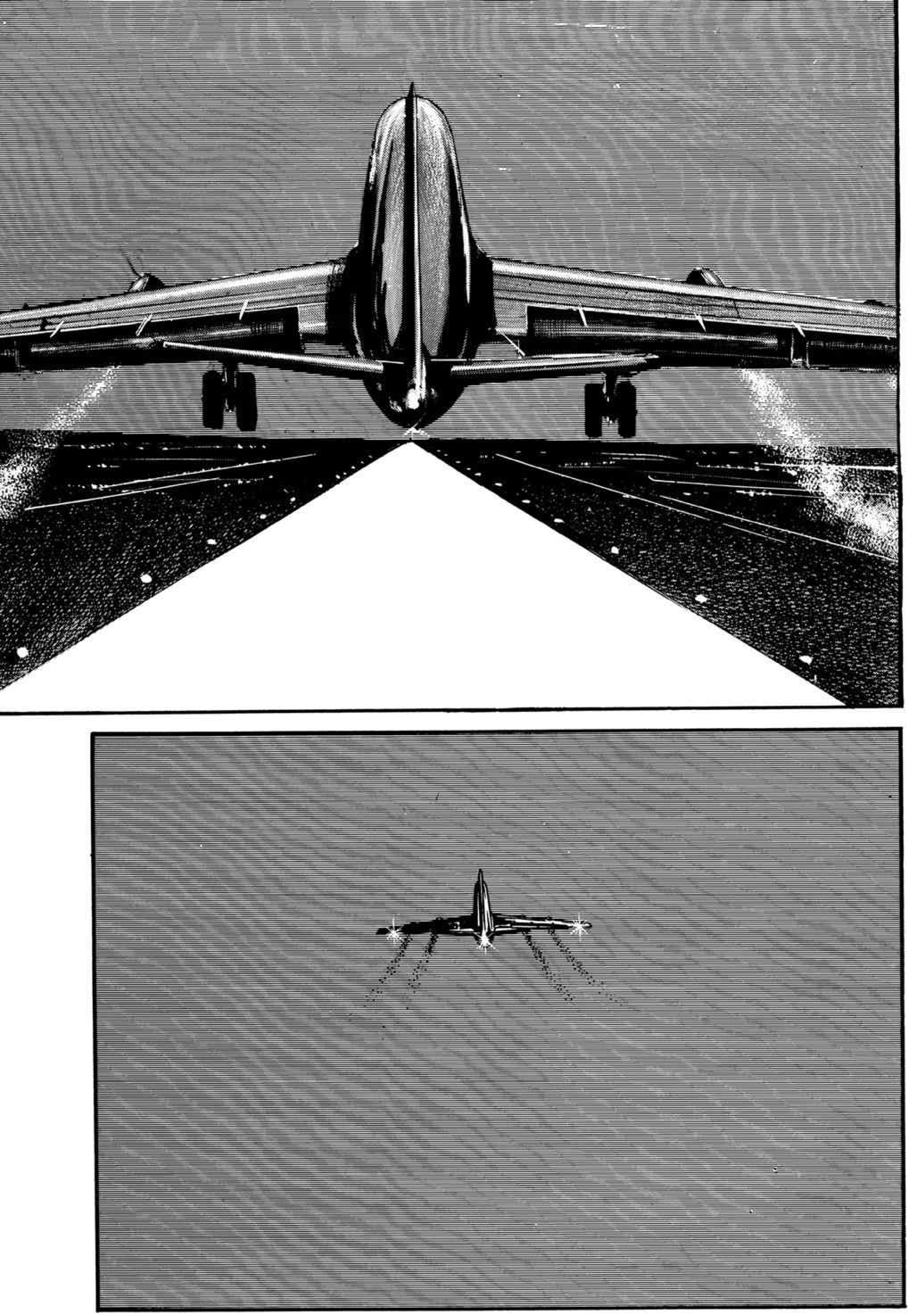

……
GORO... I'M NEVER GIVING UP.
NEVER.
SHUKIRO ...?
klik
SLAMMMMM
……

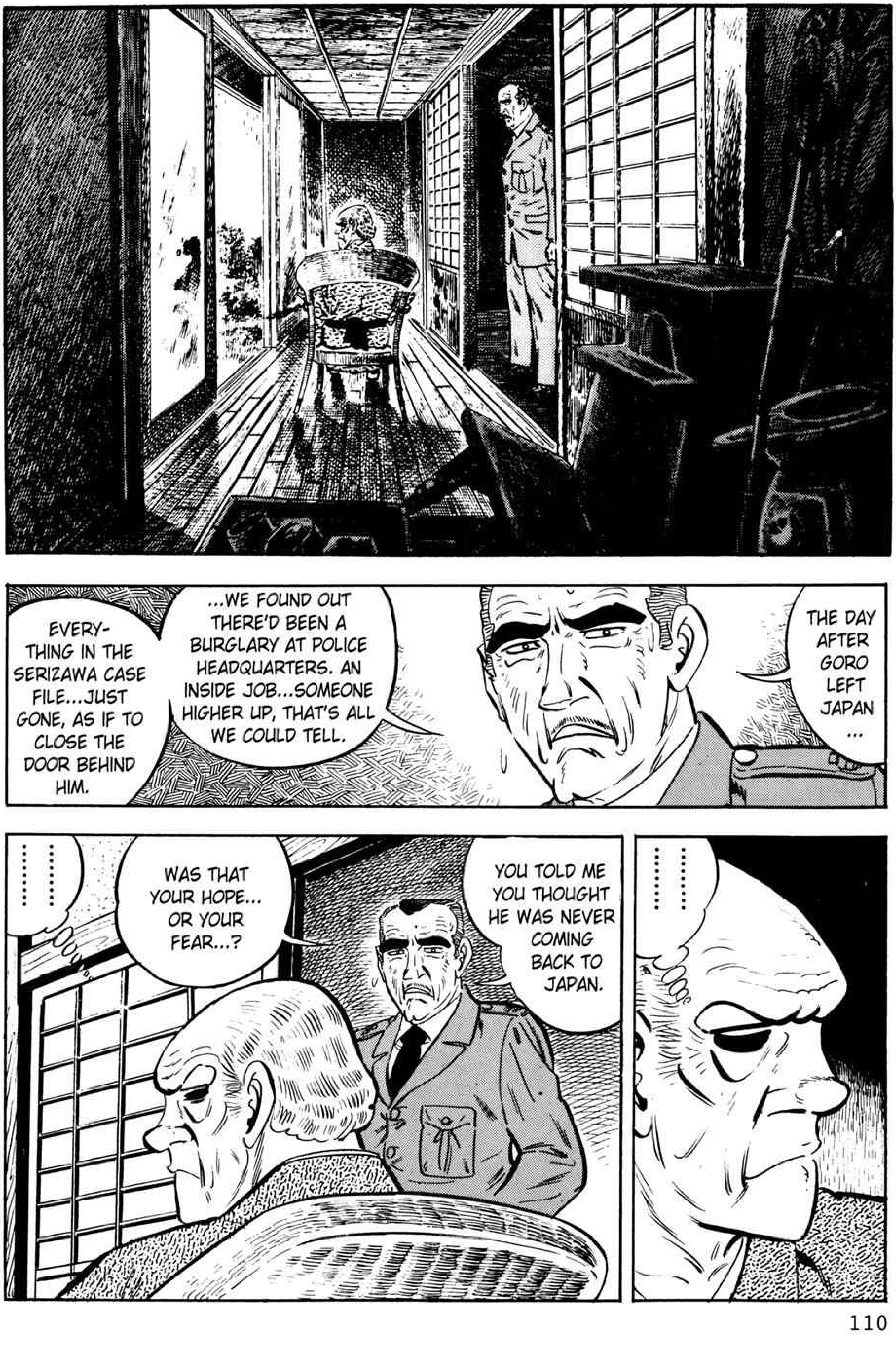

SIR!
WHAT IS IT?
WE'VE RECEIVED SOME PAPERWORK FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY...IT'S ABOUT GORO SERIZAWA.
HIS PASSPORT APPLICATION, SIR.
HIS...
...HIS *WHAT?*
!!
YES, SIR.
HE'S GOING TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.
……
Ooo

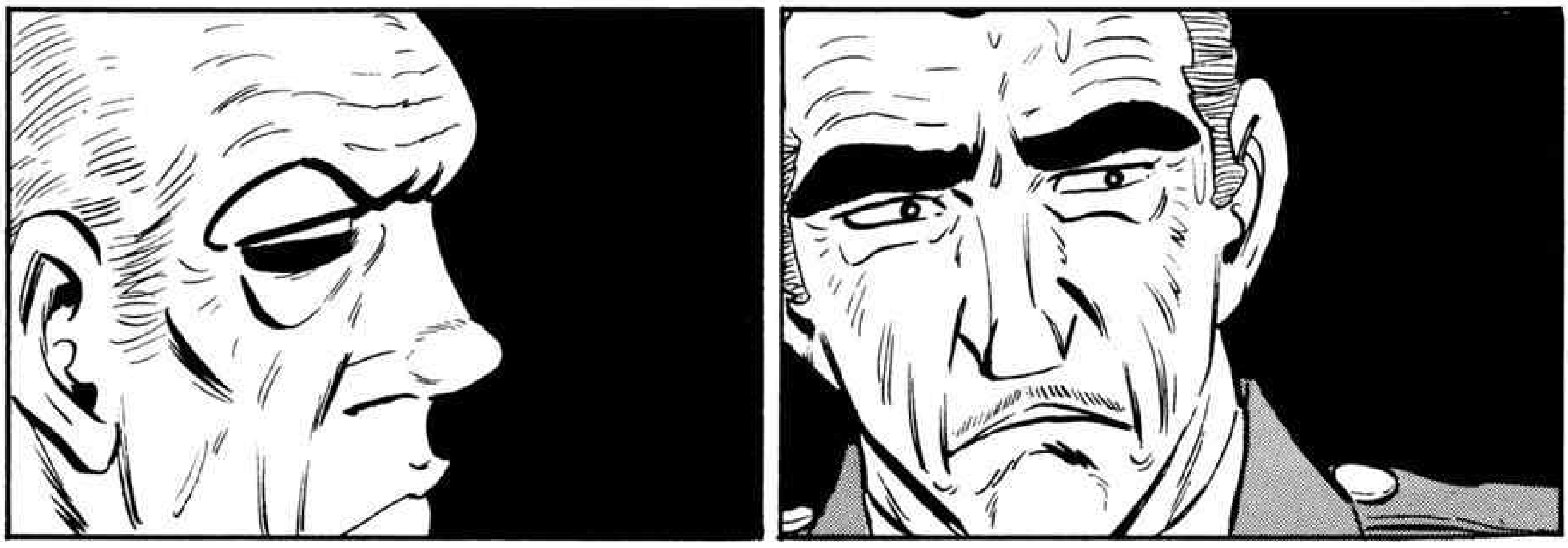

BUT, SHUKIRO...
WHEN I SAW YOUR FACE I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT REACT THE WAY YOU DID...AND YOU SAID *YOU* WOULDN'T GIVE UP...
......
...YOU ALWAYS HAD TO DRAG ME ALONG... DIDN'T YOU...?


IT'S GORO.

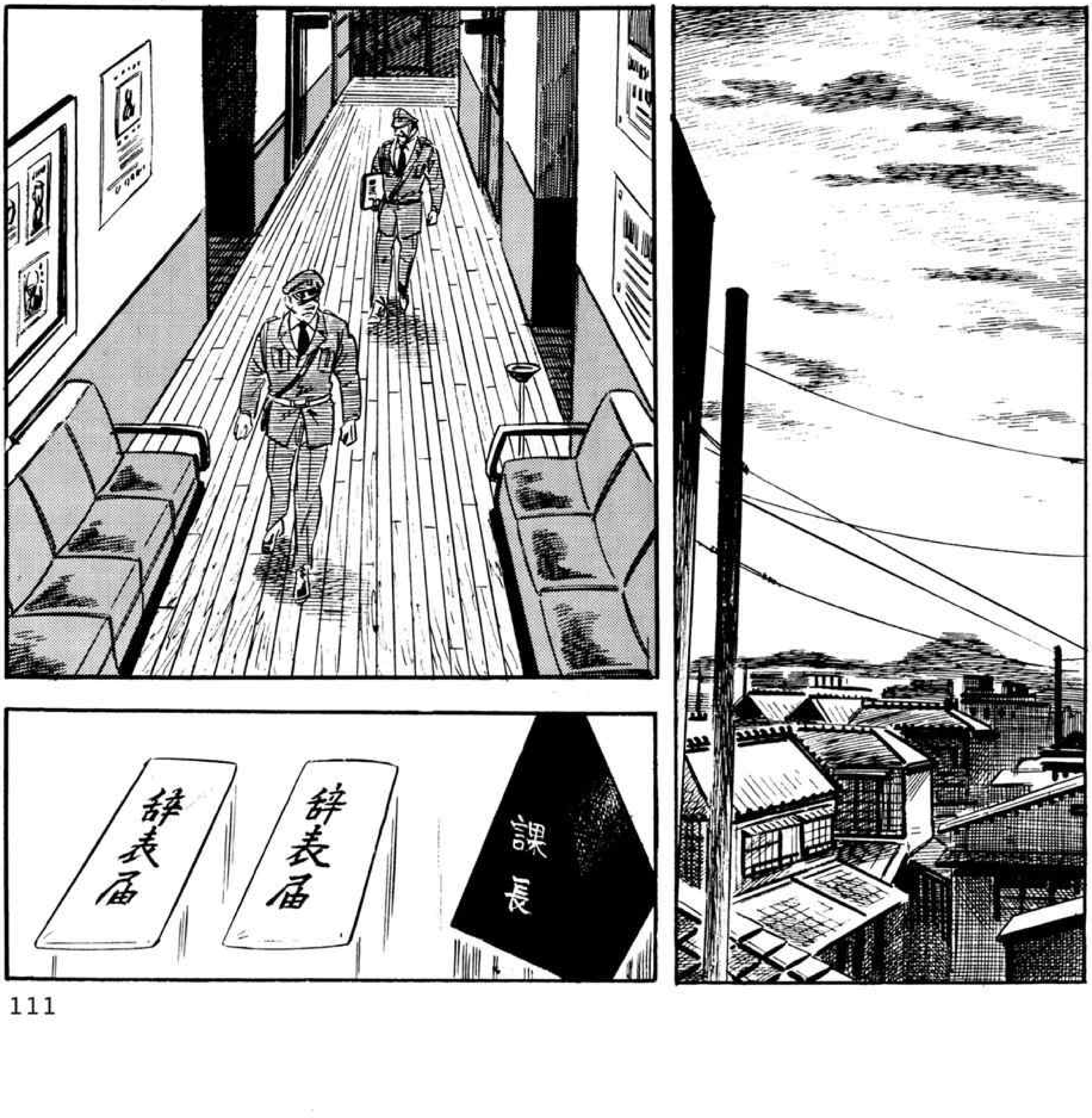

GORO!
......
REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU.
GOOD-BYE.
......
HE'S GONE.
SHUKIRO, IT'S OVER.
ストラン

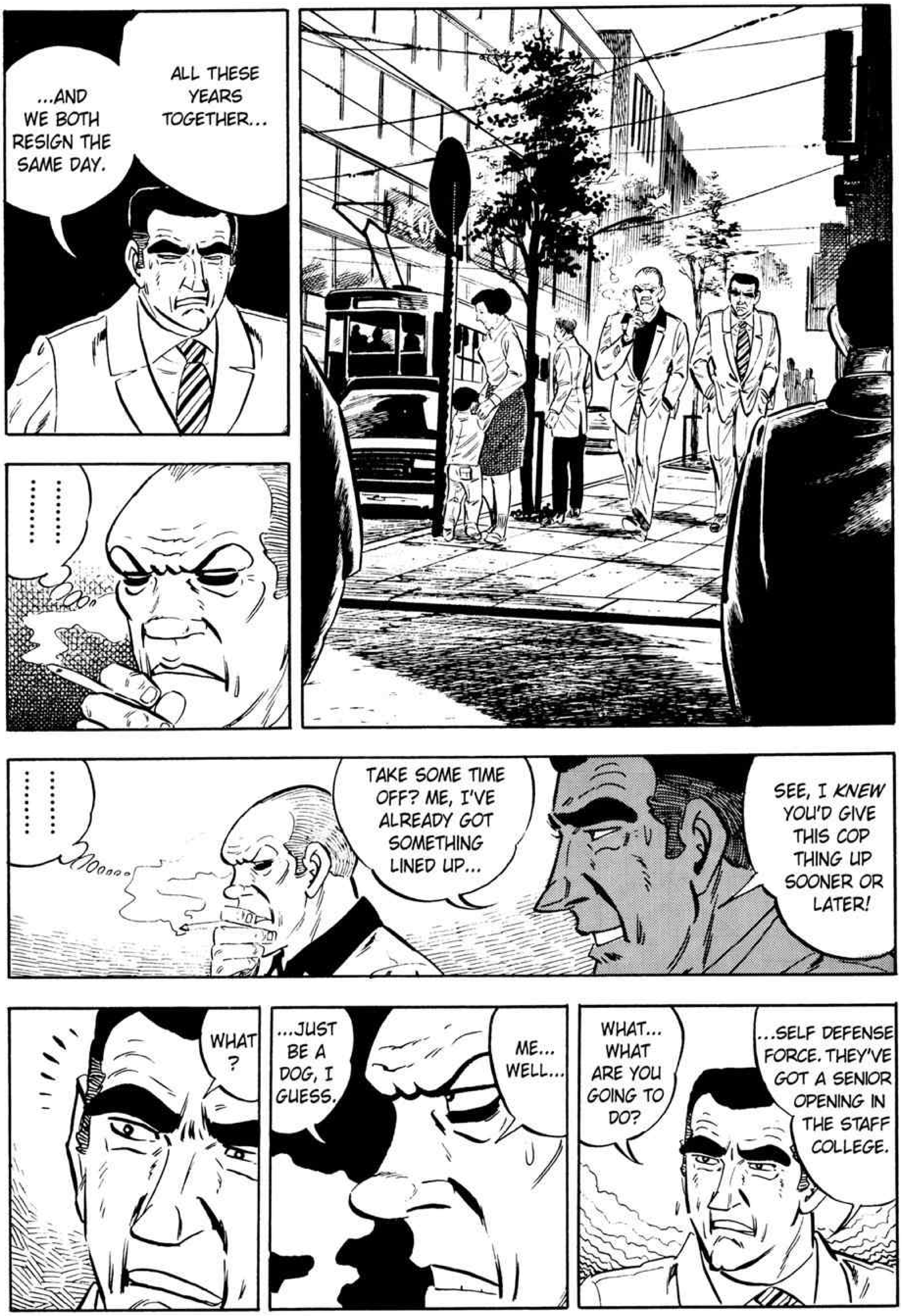


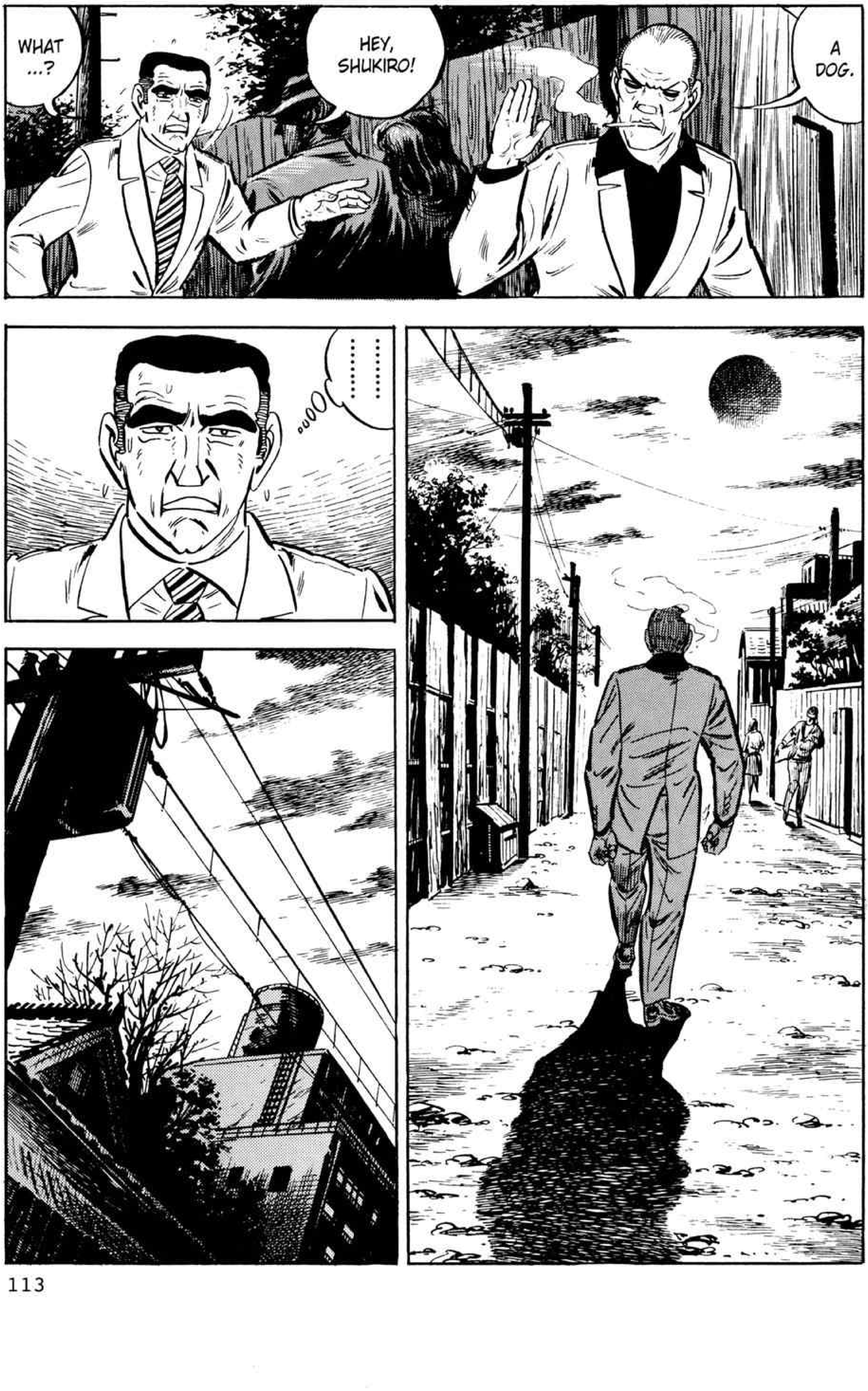

THE DAY AFTER GORO LEFT JAPAN ...
...WE FOUND OUT THERE'D BEEN A BURGLARY AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS. AN INSIDE JOB...SOMEONE HIGHER UP, THAT'S ALL WE COULD TELL.
EVERYTHING IN THE SERIZAWA CASE FILE...JUST GONE, AS IF TO CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND HIM.
......
YOU TOLD ME YOU THOUGHT HE WAS NEVER COMING BACK TO JAPAN.
WAS THAT YOUR HOPE... OR YOUR FEAR...?
......

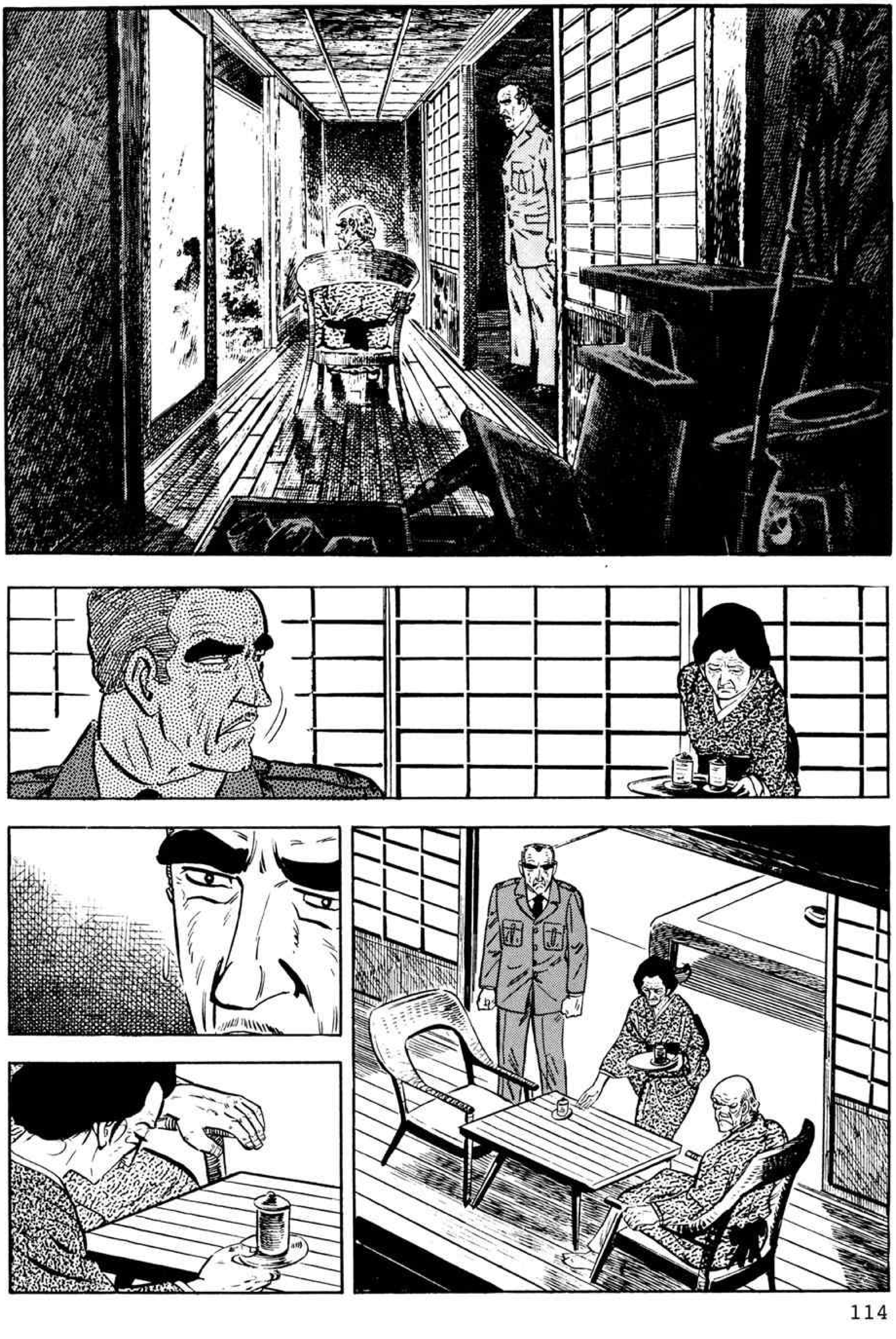


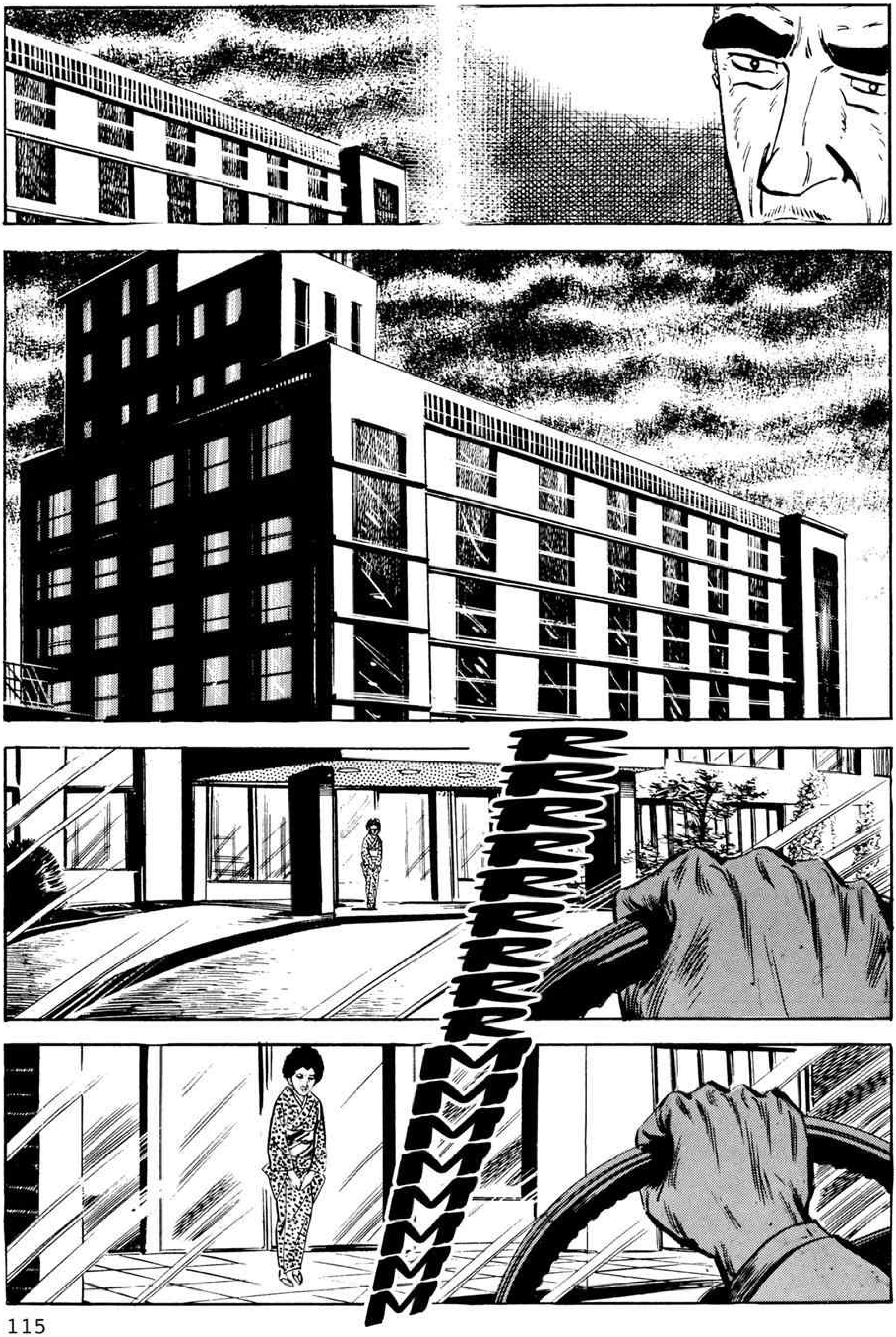
PART 15 THE DOG

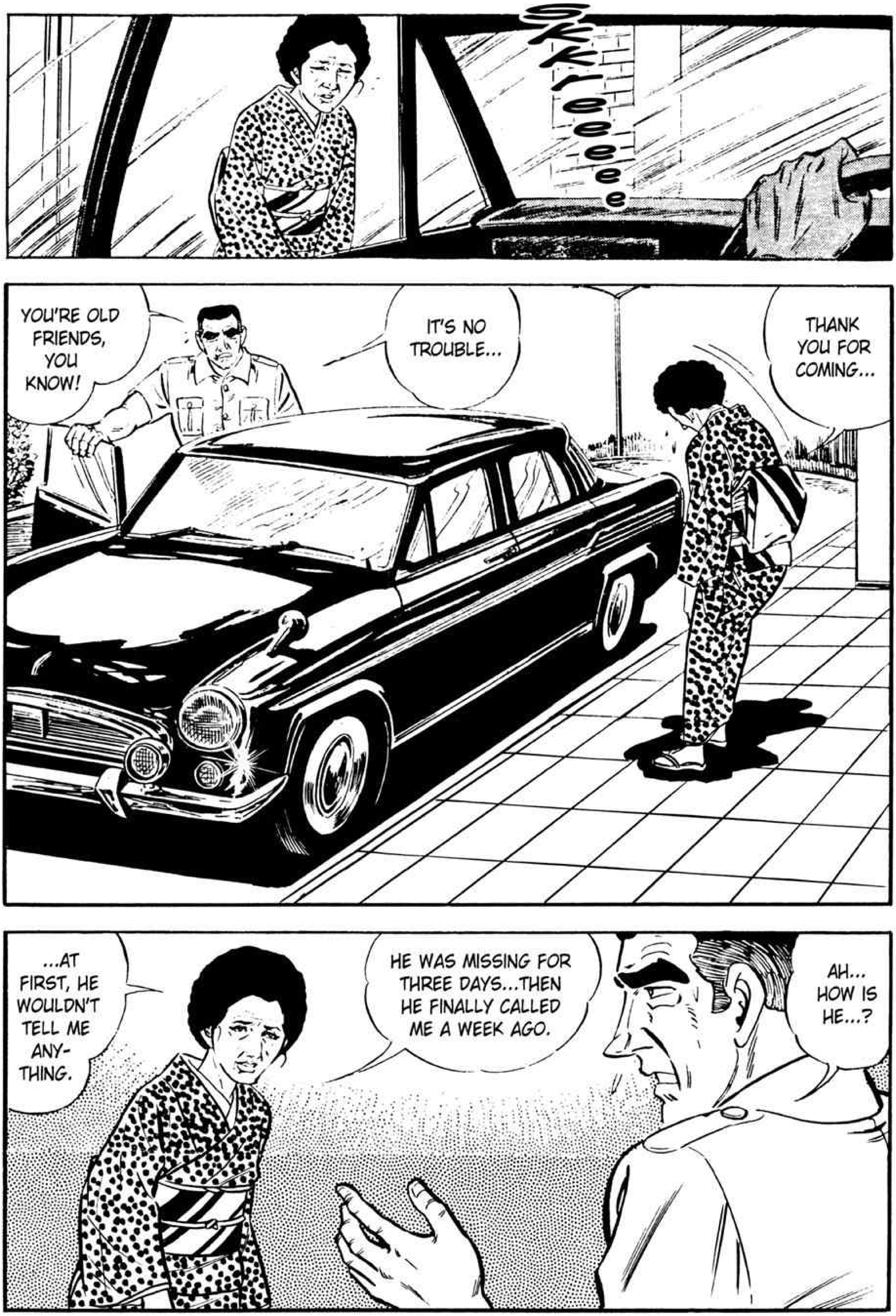


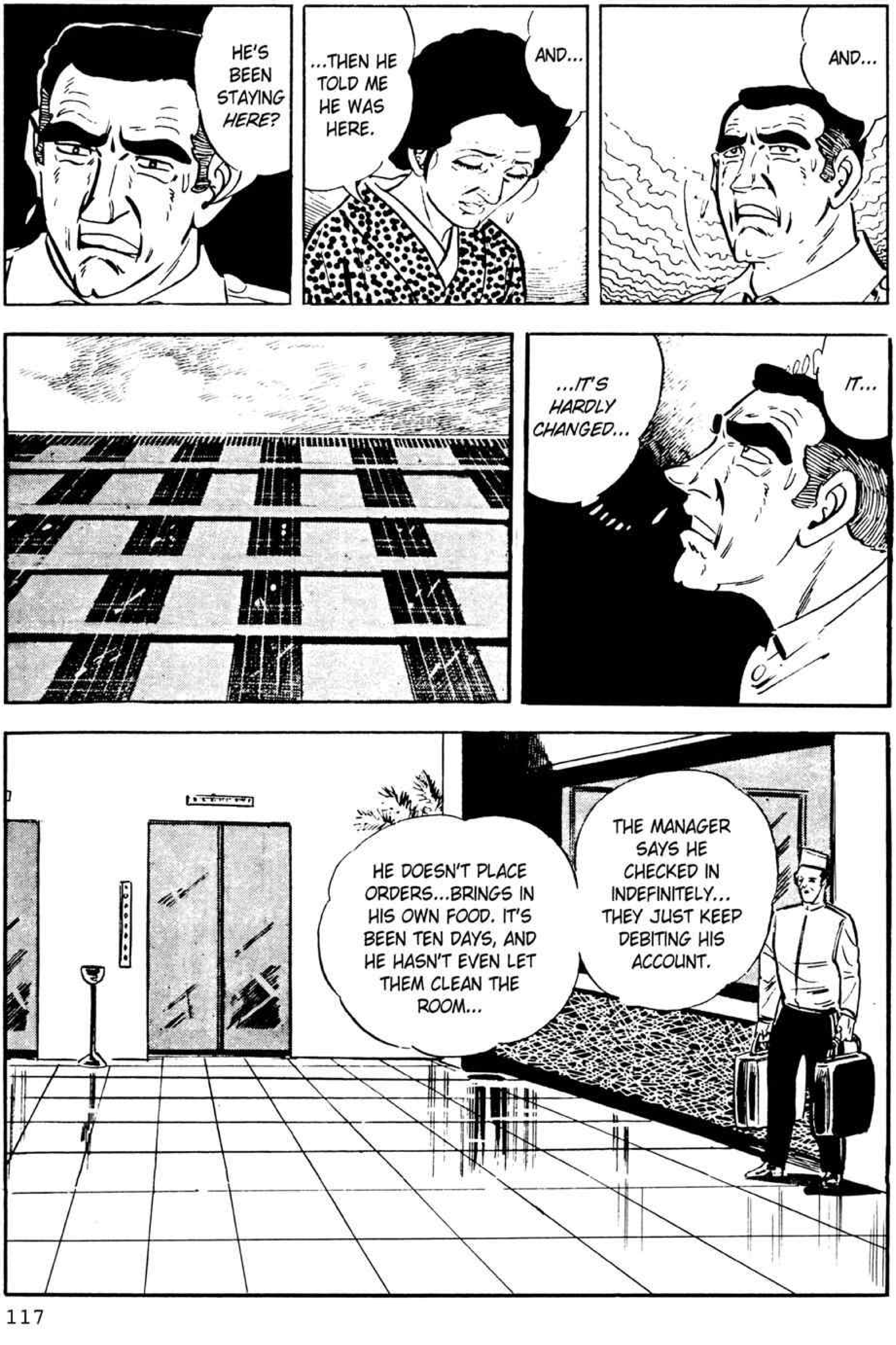

ALL THESE YEARS TOGETHER...
...AND WE BOTH RESIGN THE SAME DAY.
......
SEE, I *KNEW* YOU'D GIVE THIS COP THING UP SOONER OR LATER!
TAKE SOME TIME OFF? ME, I'VE ALREADY GOT SOMETHING LINED UP...
......
...SELF DEFENSE FORCE. THEY'VE GOT A SENIOR OPENING IN THE STAFF COLLEGE.
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
ME... WELL...
...JUST BE A DOG, I GUESS.
WHAT?

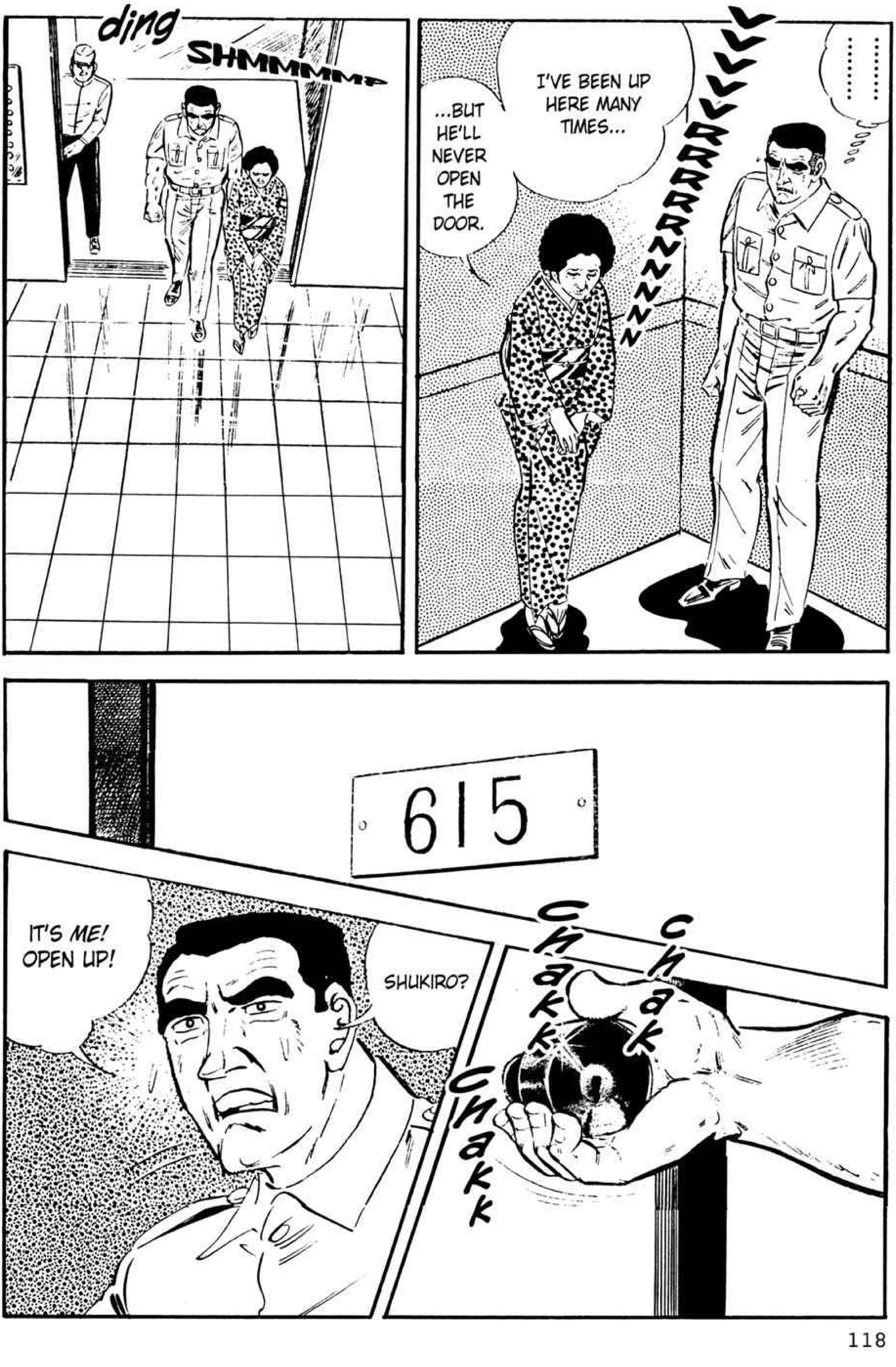

A DOG.
HEY, SHUKIRO!
WHAT ...?
......

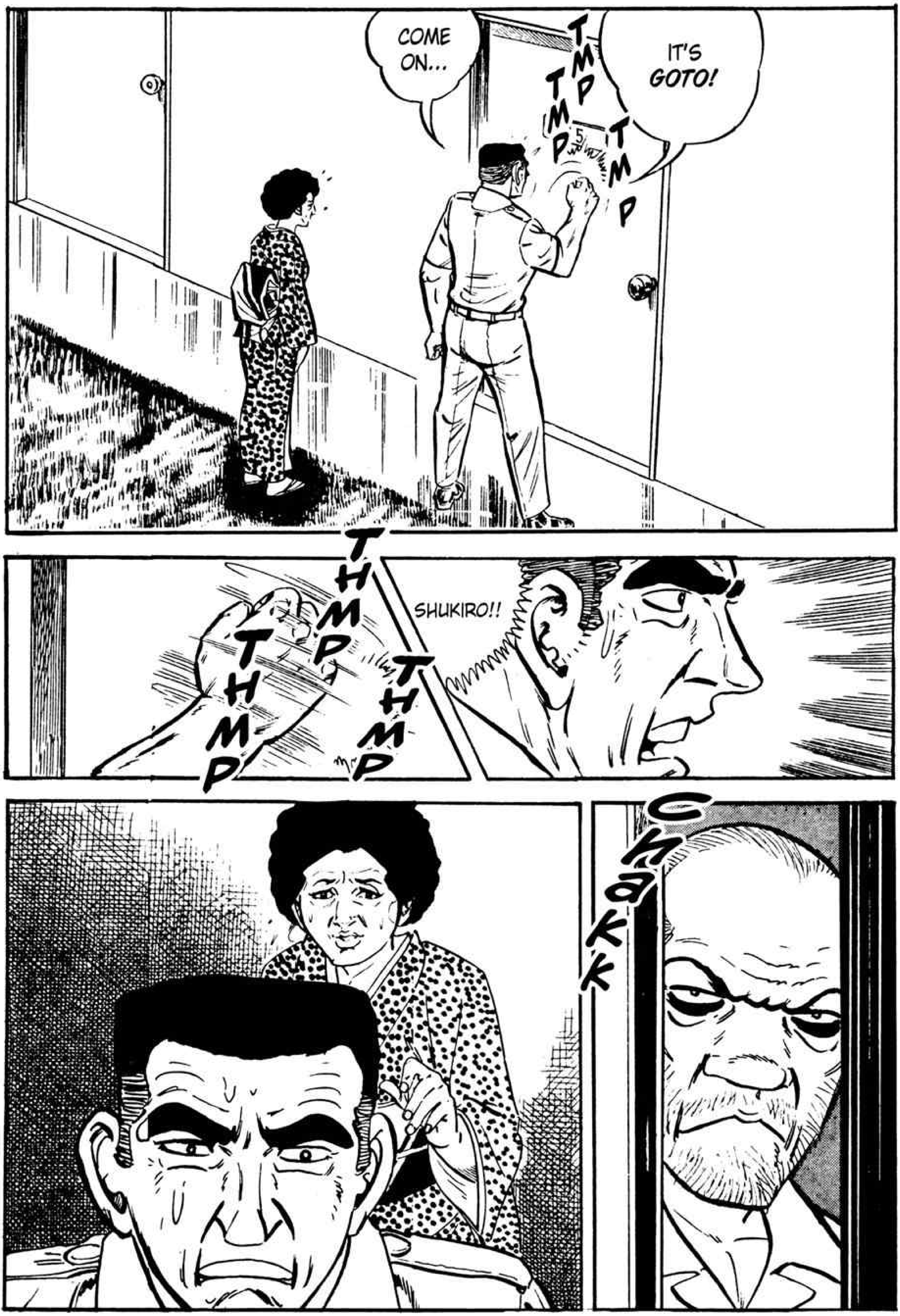


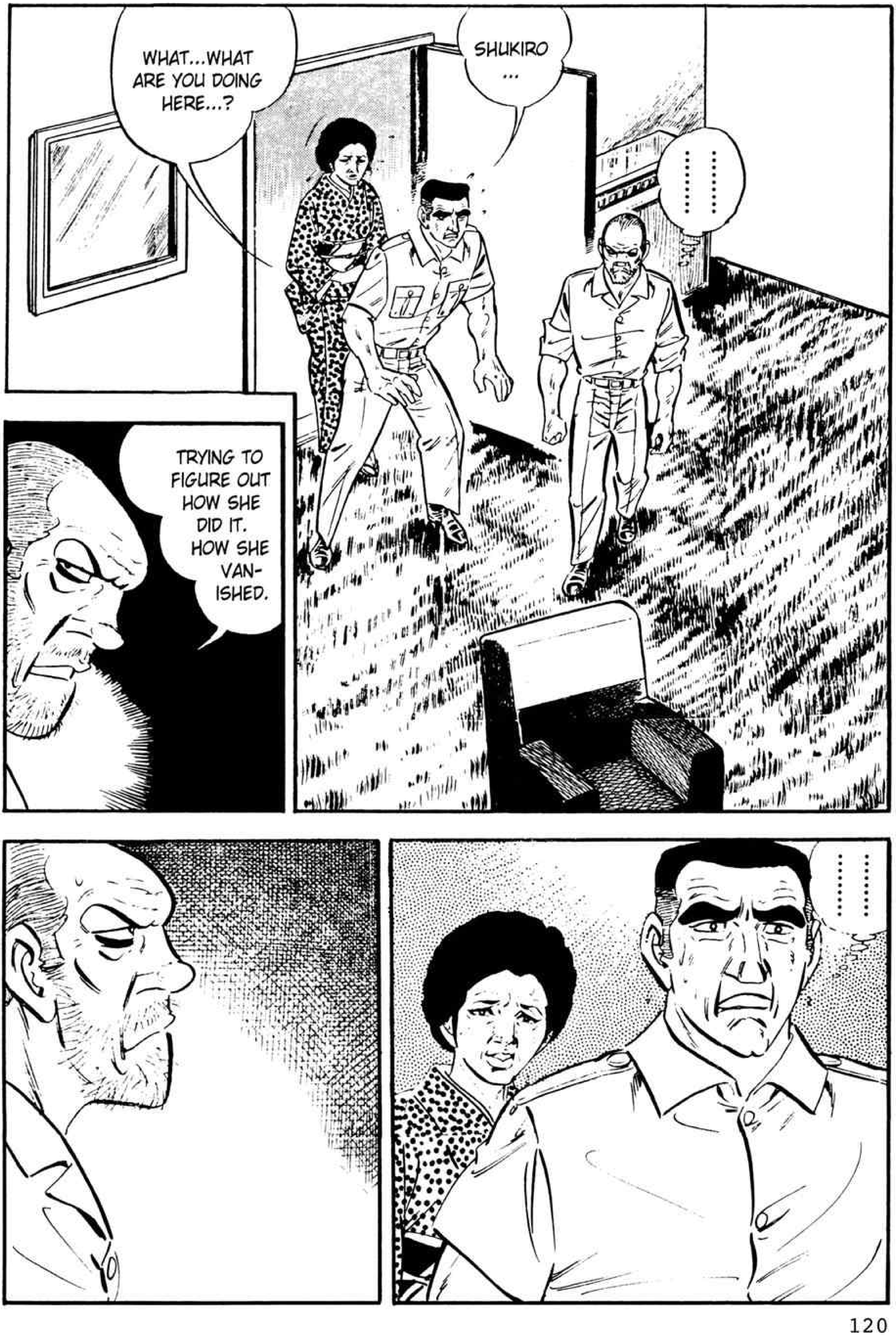

RRRRRRRRRRMMMMMMMMM


SKKREEEEE
THANK YOU FOR COMING...
IT'S NO TROUBLE...
YOU'RE OLD FRIENDS, YOU KNOW!
AH... HOW IS HE...?
HE WAS MISSING FOR THREE DAYS...THEN HE FINALLY CALLED ME A WEEK AGO.
...AT FIRST, HE WOULDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING.

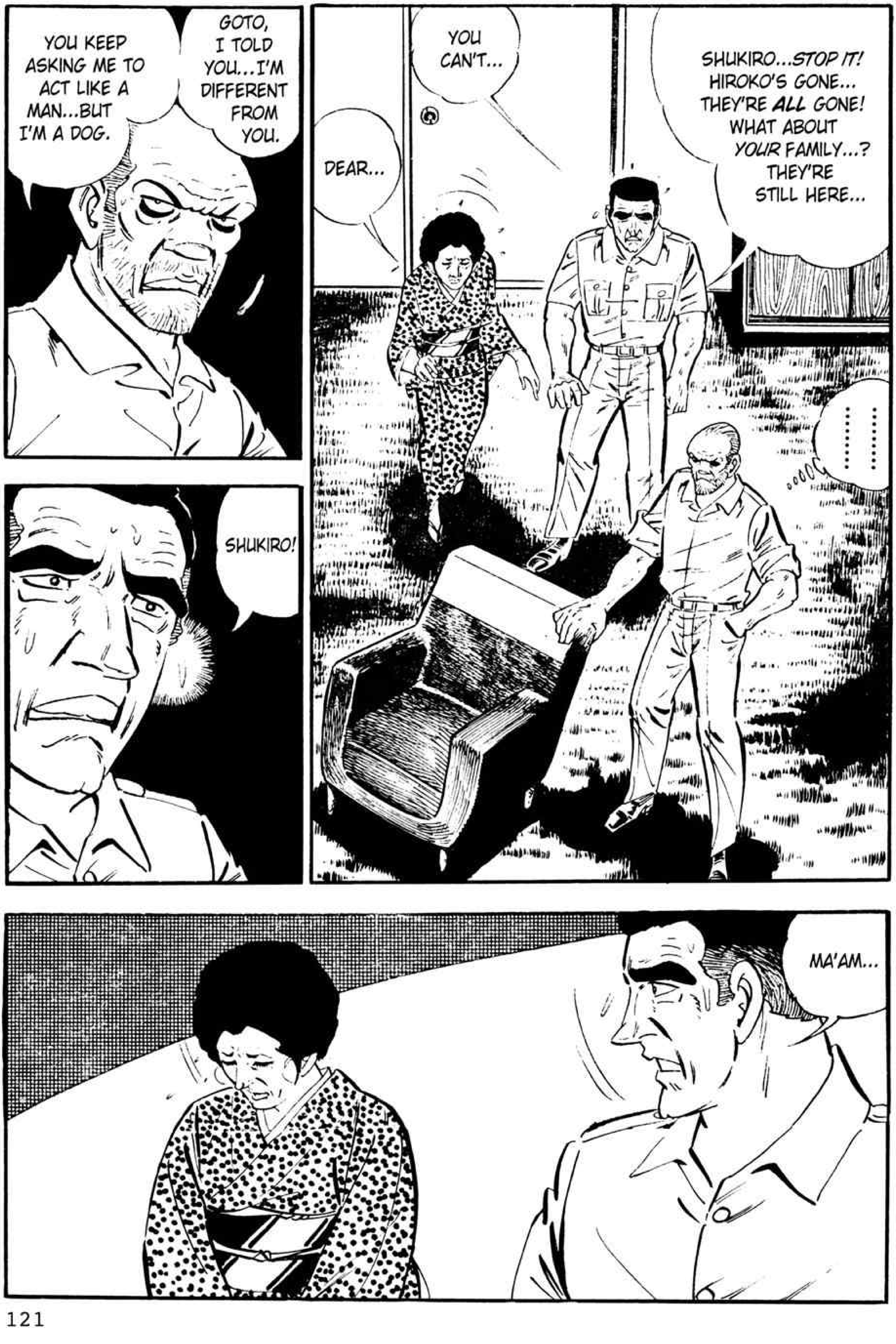

HE'S BEEN STAYING *HERE?*
...THEN HE TOLD ME HE WAS HERE.
AND...
AND...
IT...
...IT'S HARDLY CHANGED...
THE MANAGER SAYS HE CHECKED IN INDEFINITELY... THEY JUST KEEP DEBITING HIS ACCOUNT.
HE DOESN'T PLACE ORDERS...BRINGS IN HIS OWN FOOD. IT'S BEEN TEN DAYS, AND HE HASN'T EVEN LET THEM CLEAN THE ROOM...

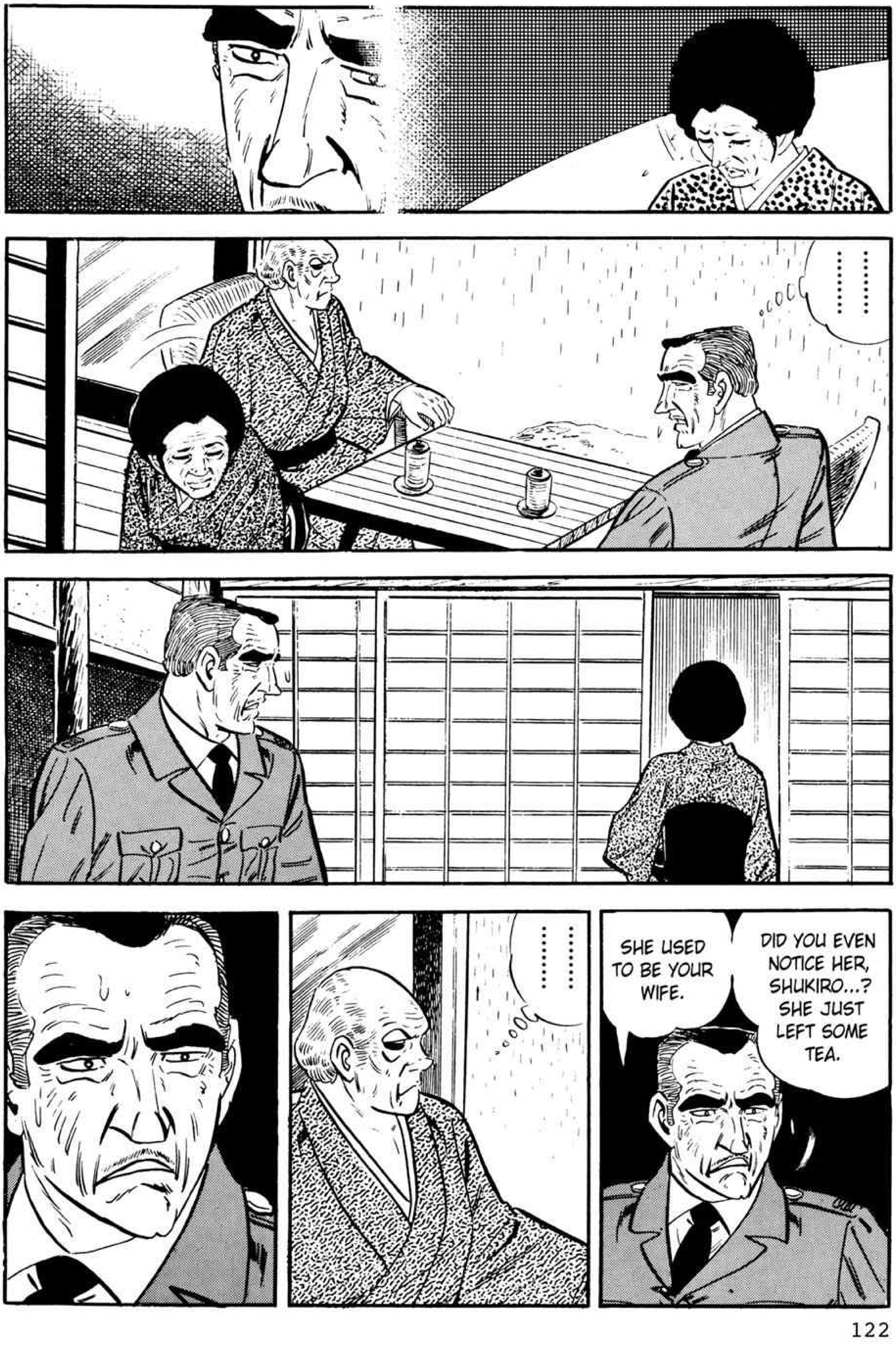

……
VVVVVRRRRRRNNNNN
I'VE BEEN UP HERE MANY TIMES...
...BUT HE'LL NEVER OPEN THE DOOR.
ding
SHMMMMP
615
chakk chakk chakk
SHUKIRO?
IT'S *ME*! OPEN UP!


IT'S GOTO!
TMP TMP TMP
COME ON...
SHUKIRO!!
THMP THMP THMP
CHAKK



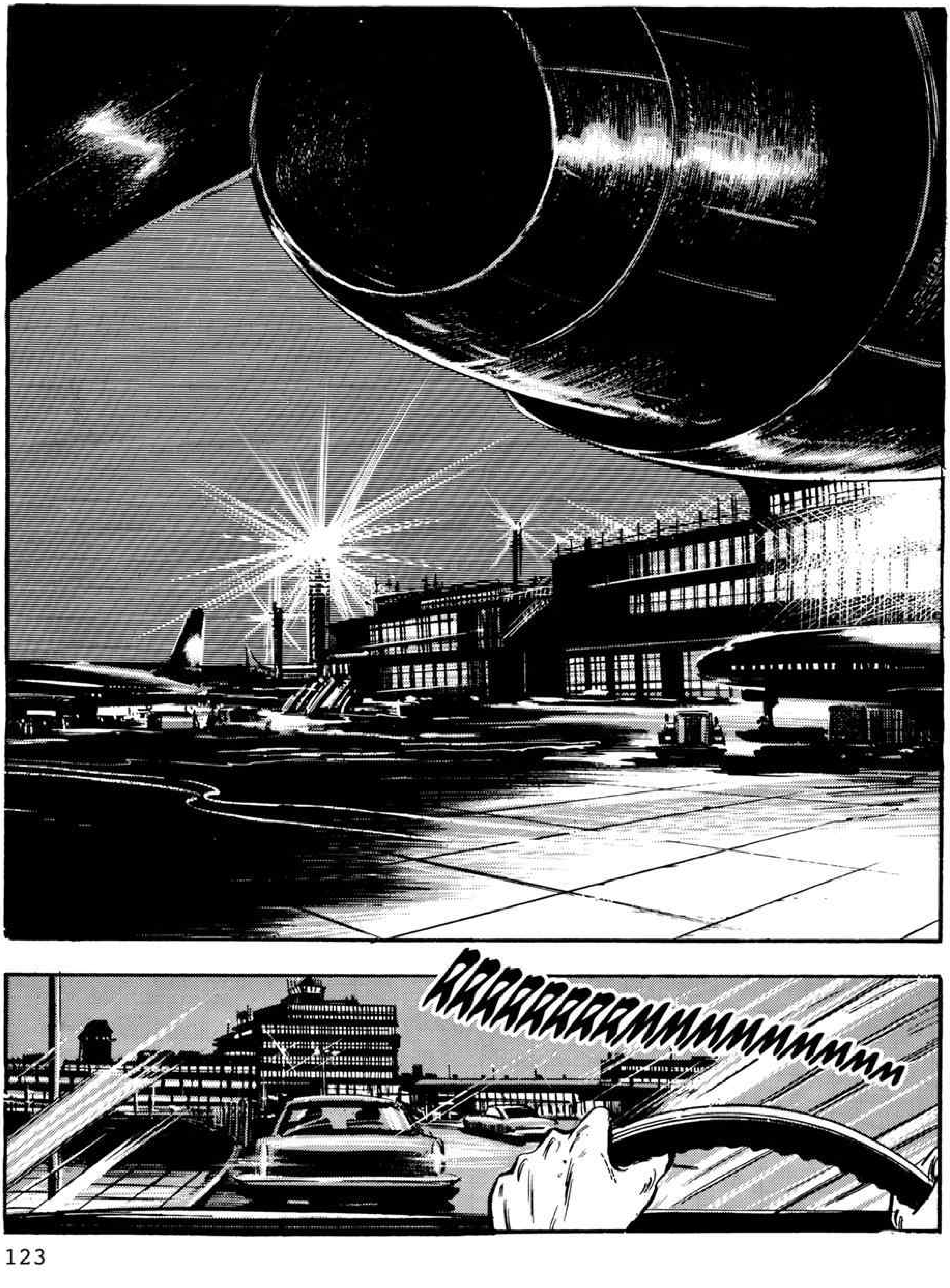
....
SHUKIRO...
WHAT...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?
TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW SHE DID IT. HOW SHE VANISHED.
....

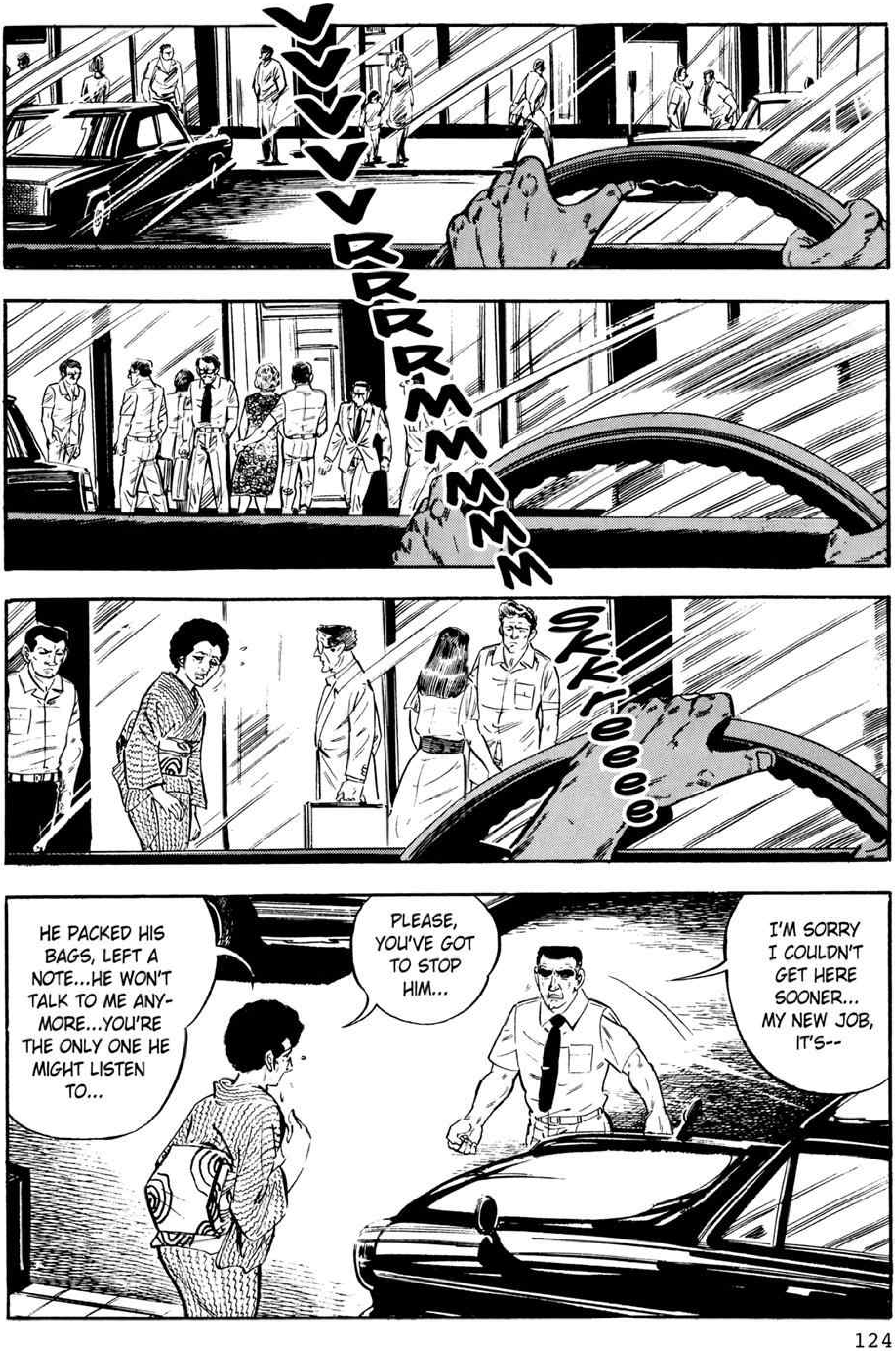

GOTO, I TOLD YOU...I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU.
YOU KEEP ASKING ME TO ACT LIKE A MAN...BUT I'M A DOG.
SHUKIRO!
SHUKIRO...*STOP IT!* HIROKO'S GONE... THEY'RE ***ALL*** GONE! WHAT ABOUT *YOUR* FAMILY...? THEY'RE STILL HERE...
YOU CAN'T...
DEAR...
......
MA'AM...

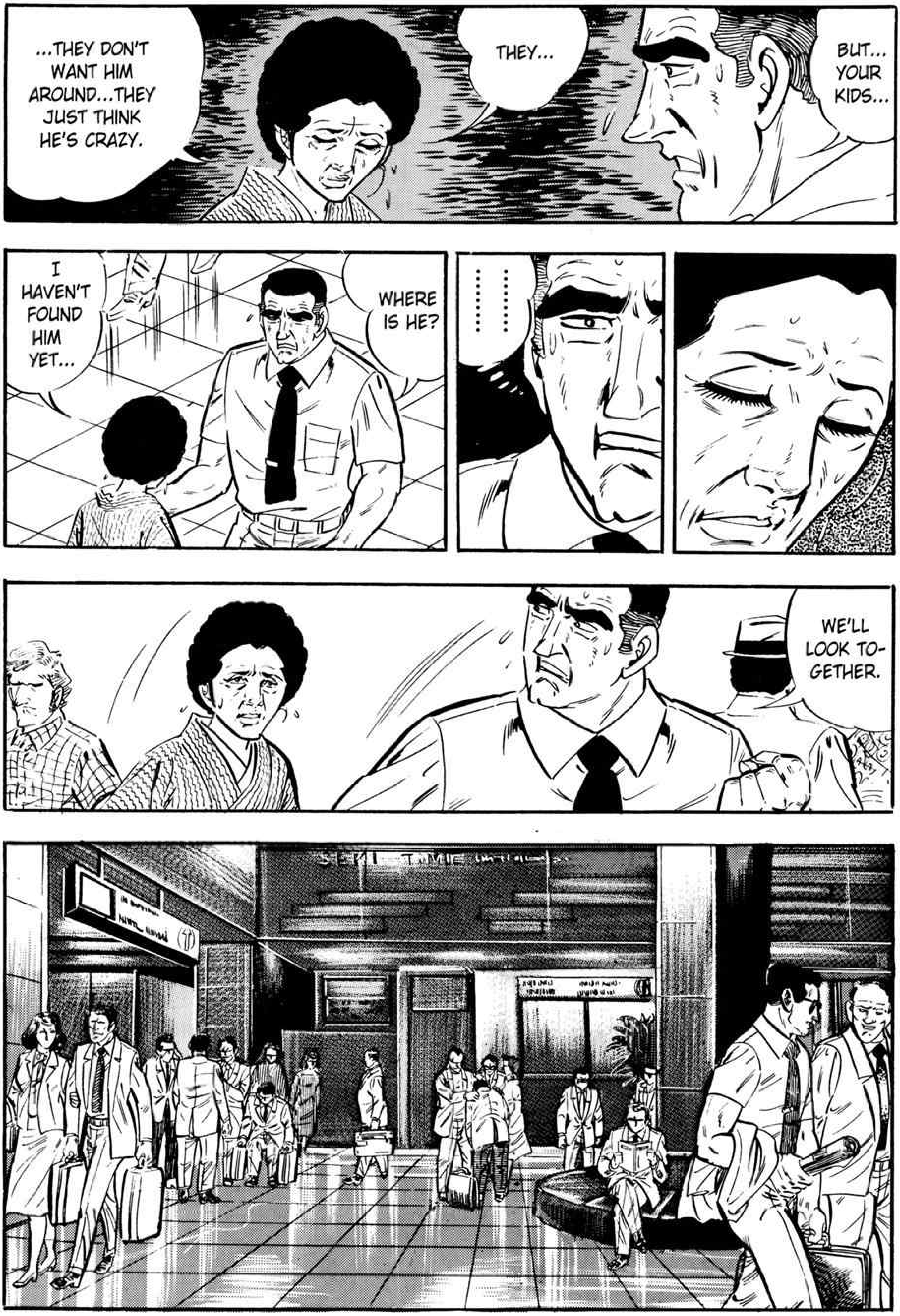

......
DID YOU EVEN NOTICE HER, SHUKIRO...? SHE JUST LEFT SOME TEA.
SHE USED TO BE YOUR WIFE.
......

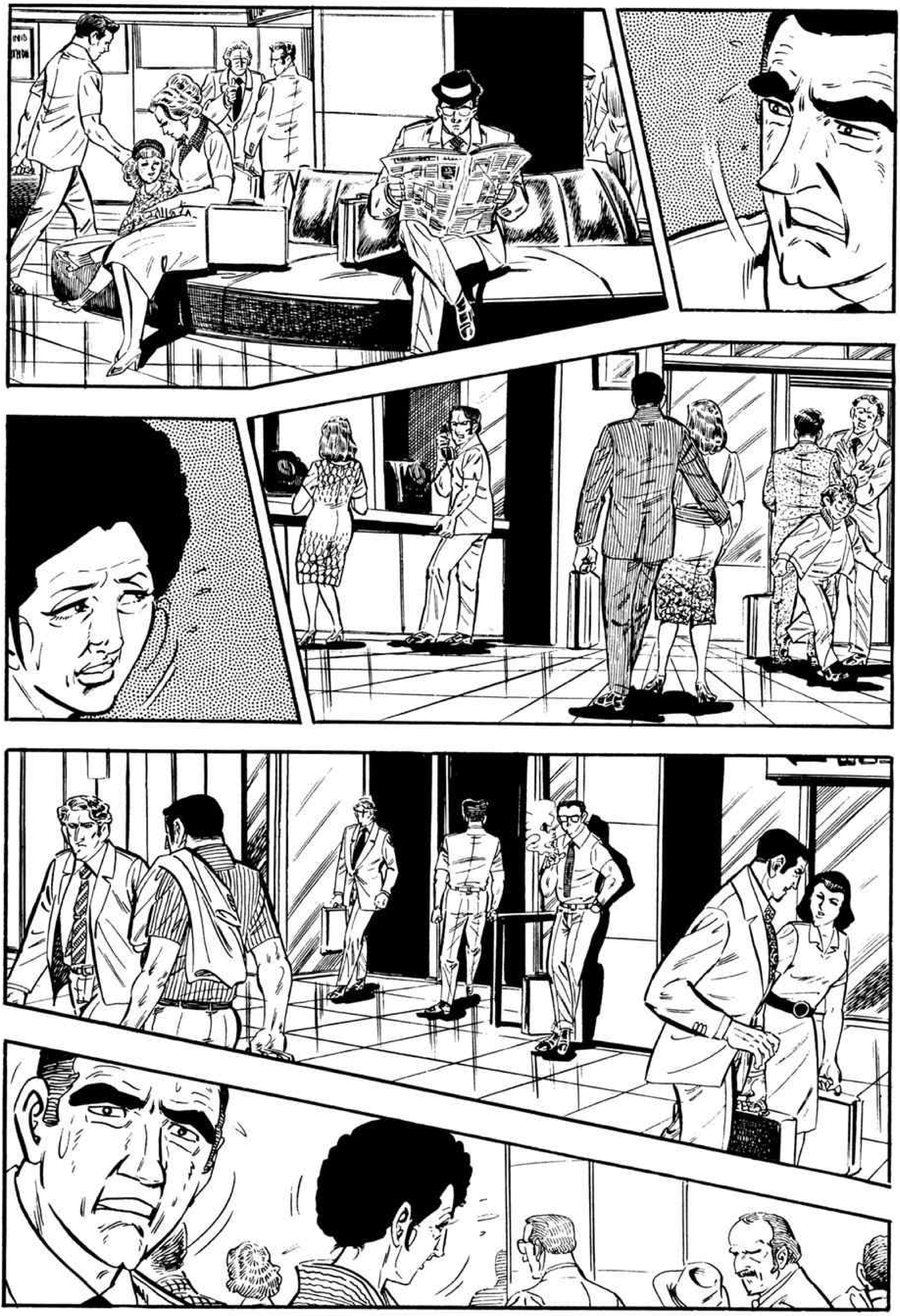
PART 16

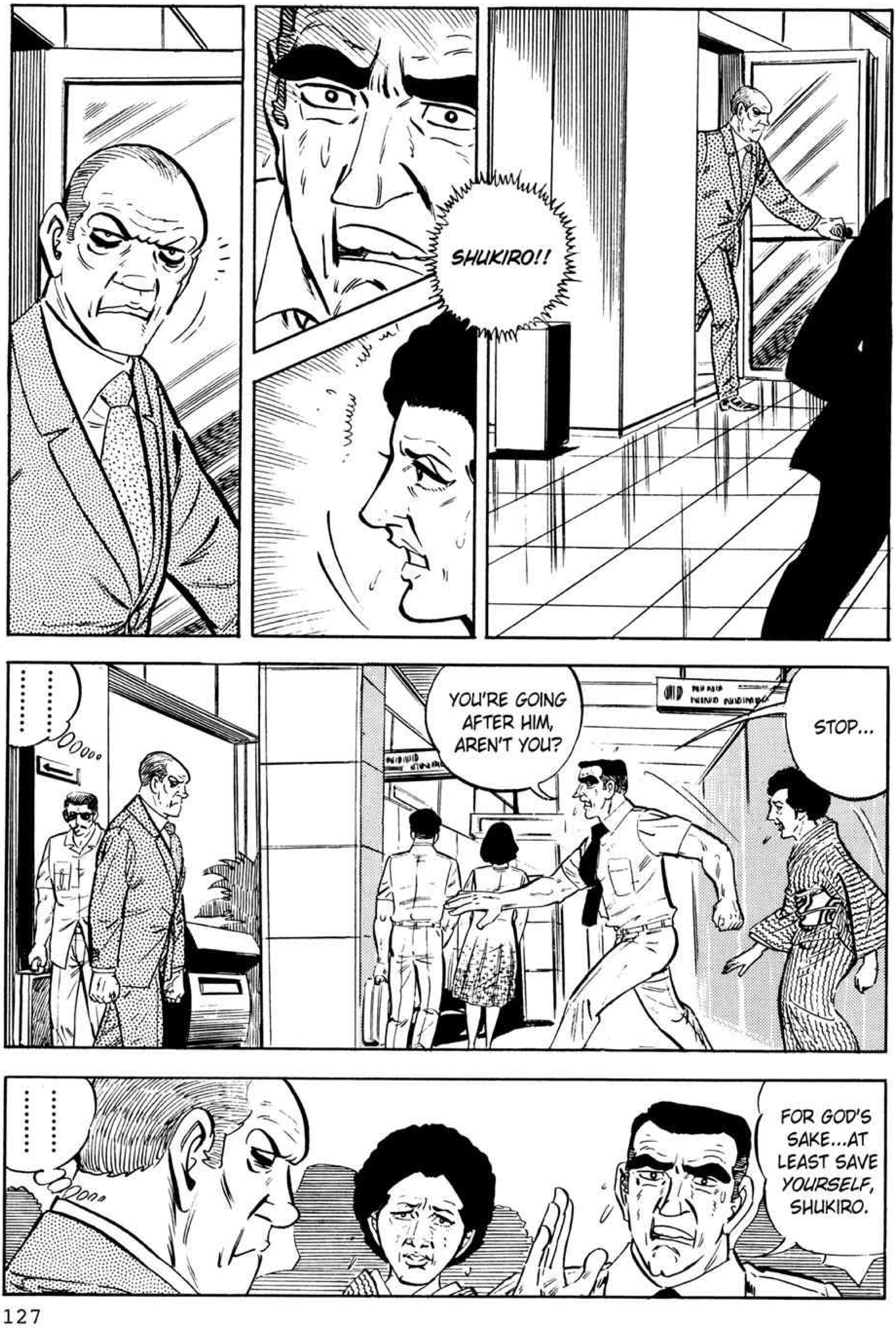
ABANDONED

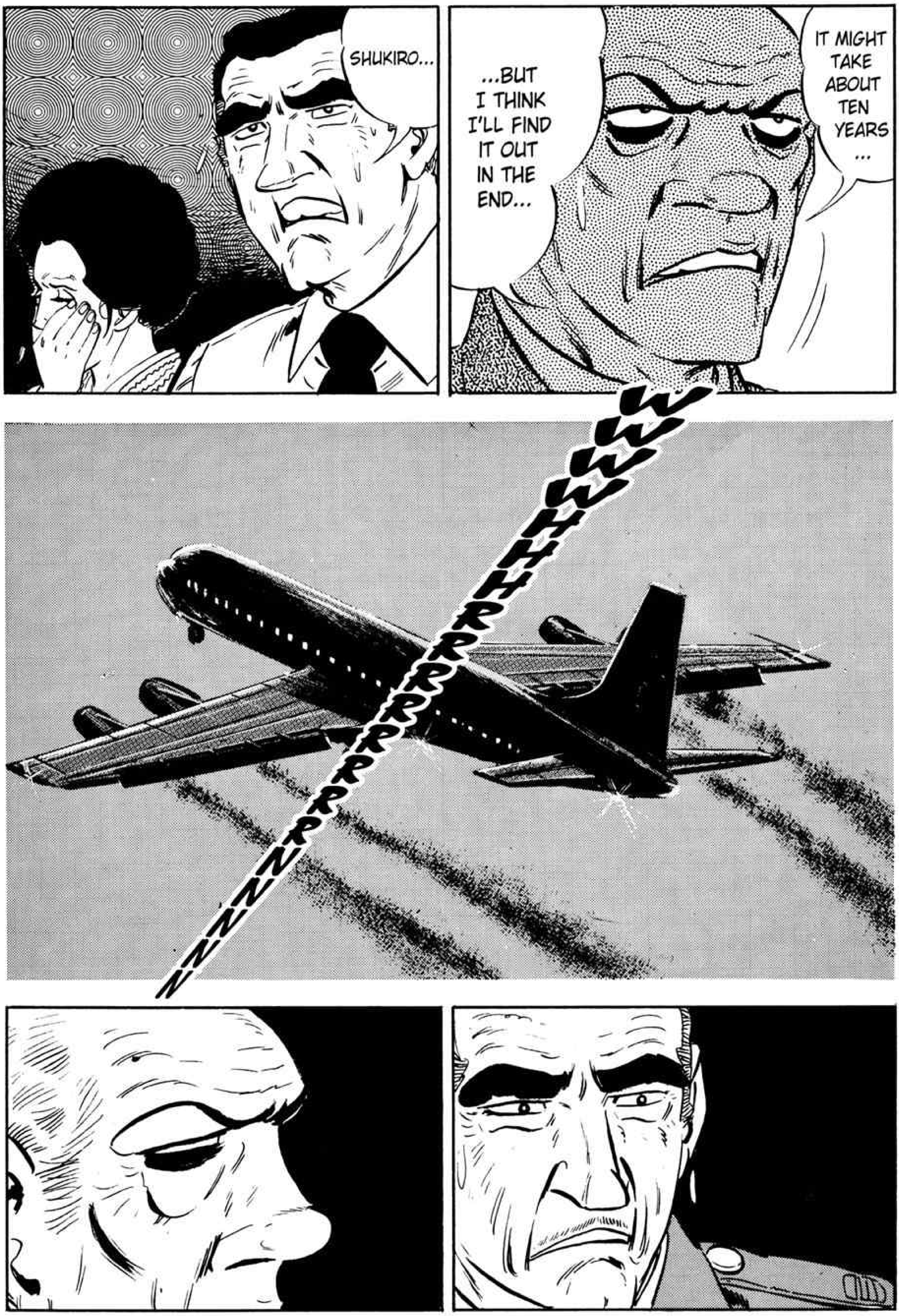

RRRRRRRRRMMMMMMMMMMMM


VVVVVVRRRRMMMMMM
SKKreeeee
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T GET HERE SOONER... MY NEW JOB, IT'S--
PLEASE, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP HIM...
HE PACKED HIS BAGS, LEFT A NOTE...HE WON'T TALK TO ME ANYMORE...YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HE MIGHT LISTEN TO...

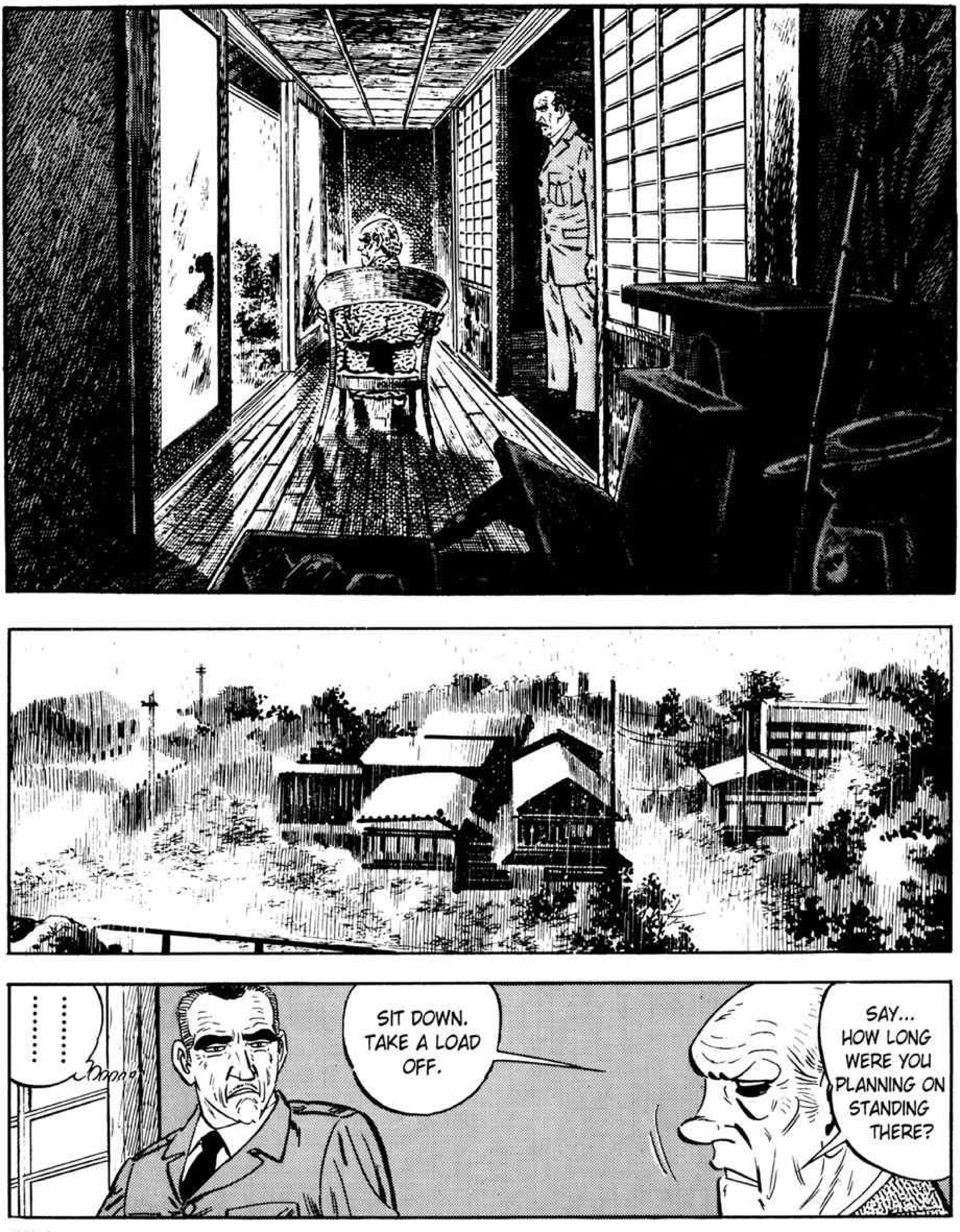

BUT... YOUR KIDS...
THEY...
...THEY DON'T WANT HIM AROUND...THEY JUST THINK HE'S CRAZY.
......
WHERE IS HE?
I HAVEN'T FOUND HIM YET...
WE'LL LOOK TOGETHER.

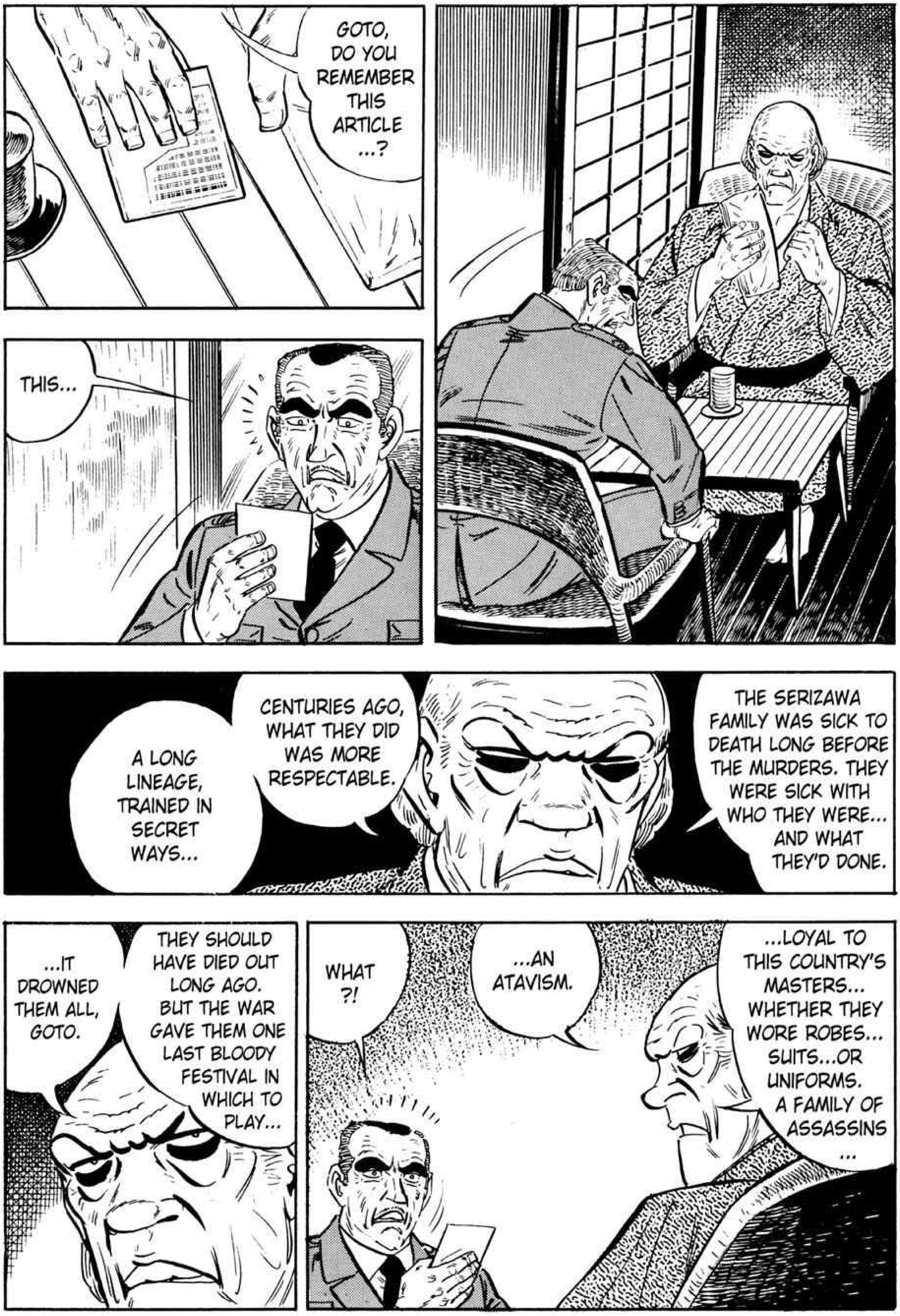


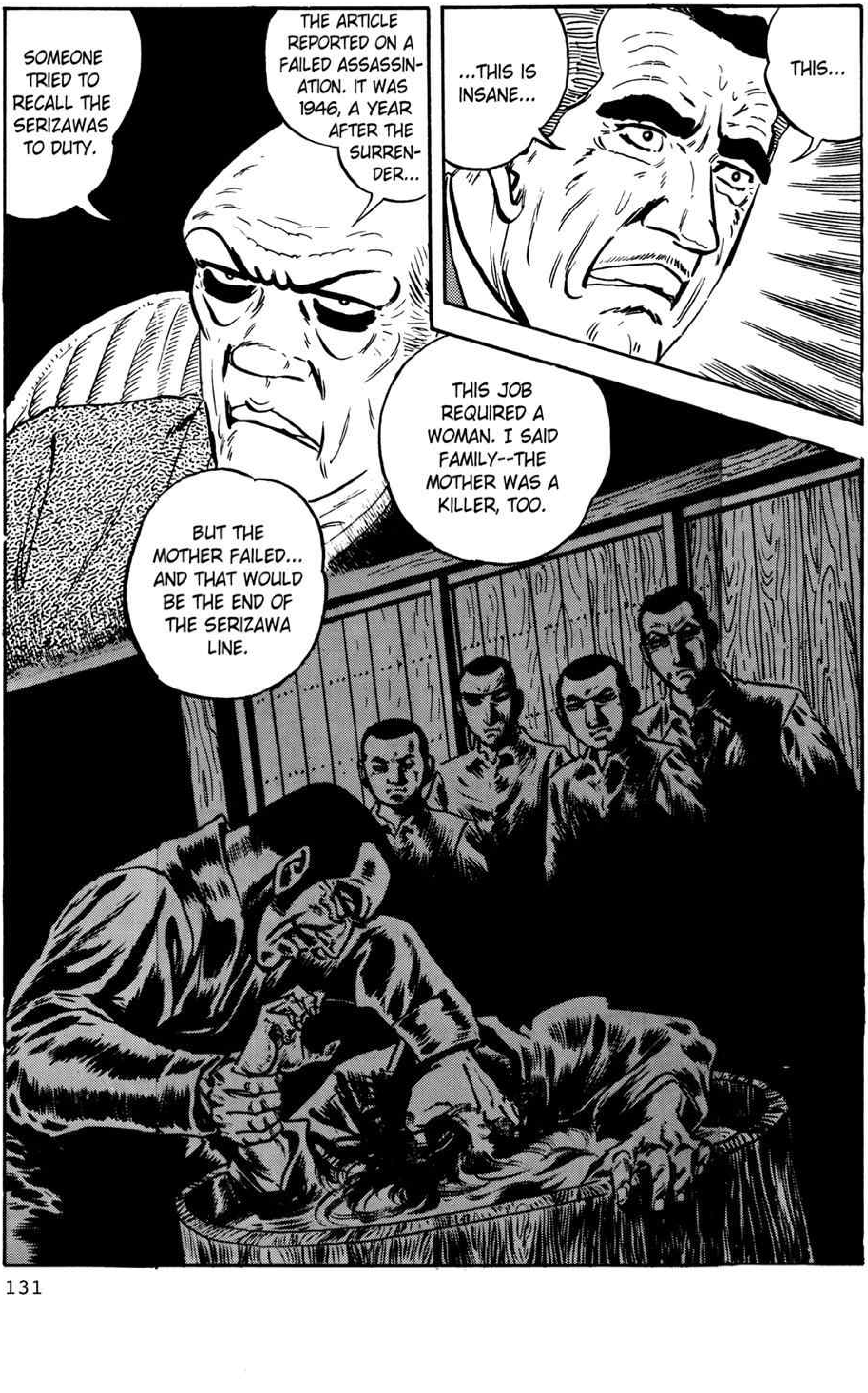

SHUKIRO!!
STOP...
YOU'RE GOING AFTER HIM, AREN'T YOU?
......
FOR GOD'S SAKE...AT LEAST SAVE *YOURSELF*, SHUKIRO.
......

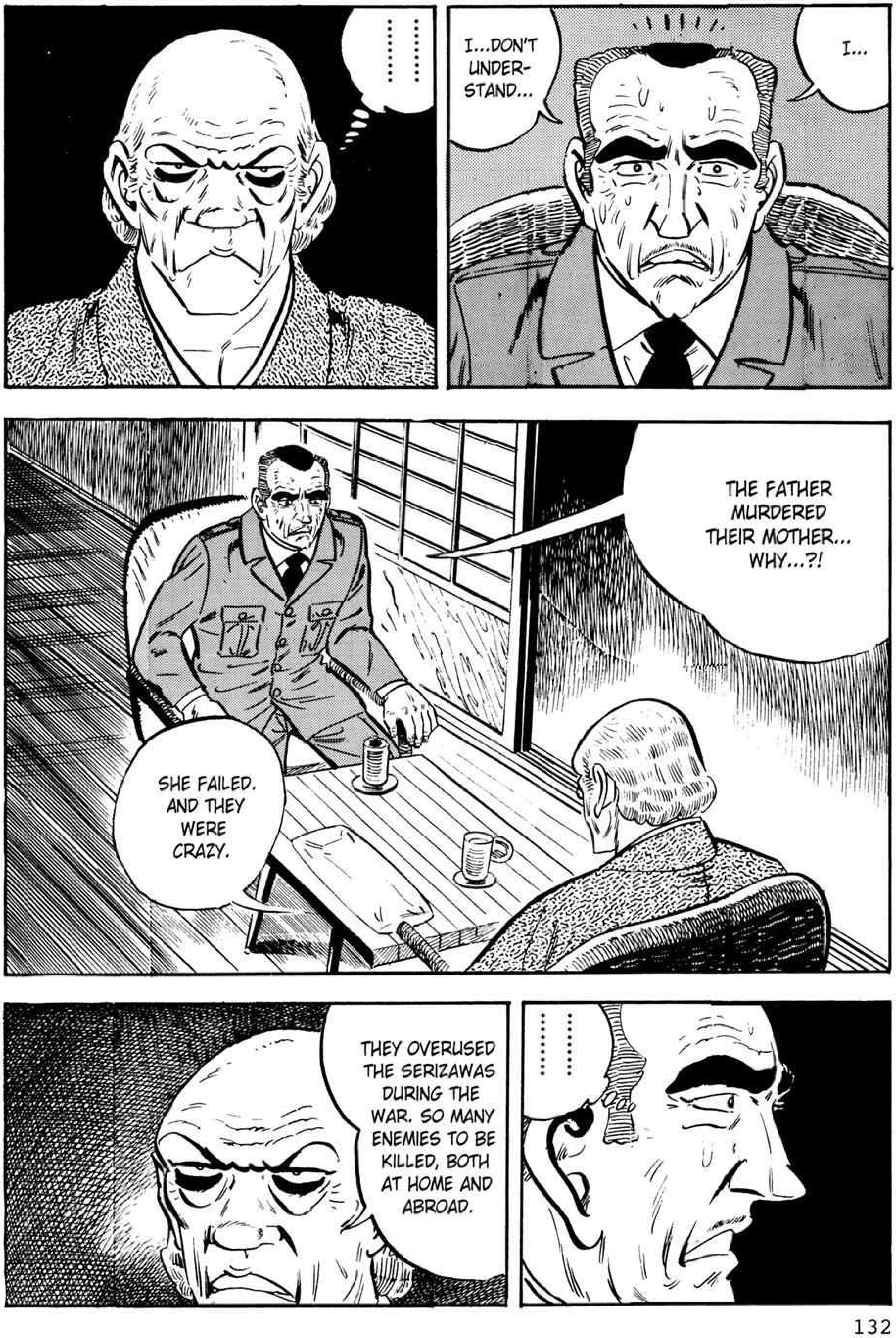

IT MIGHT TAKE ABOUT TEN YEARS ...
...BUT I THINK I'LL FIND IT OUT IN THE END...
SHUKIRO...
WWWWHHHRRRRRRRRRNNNN

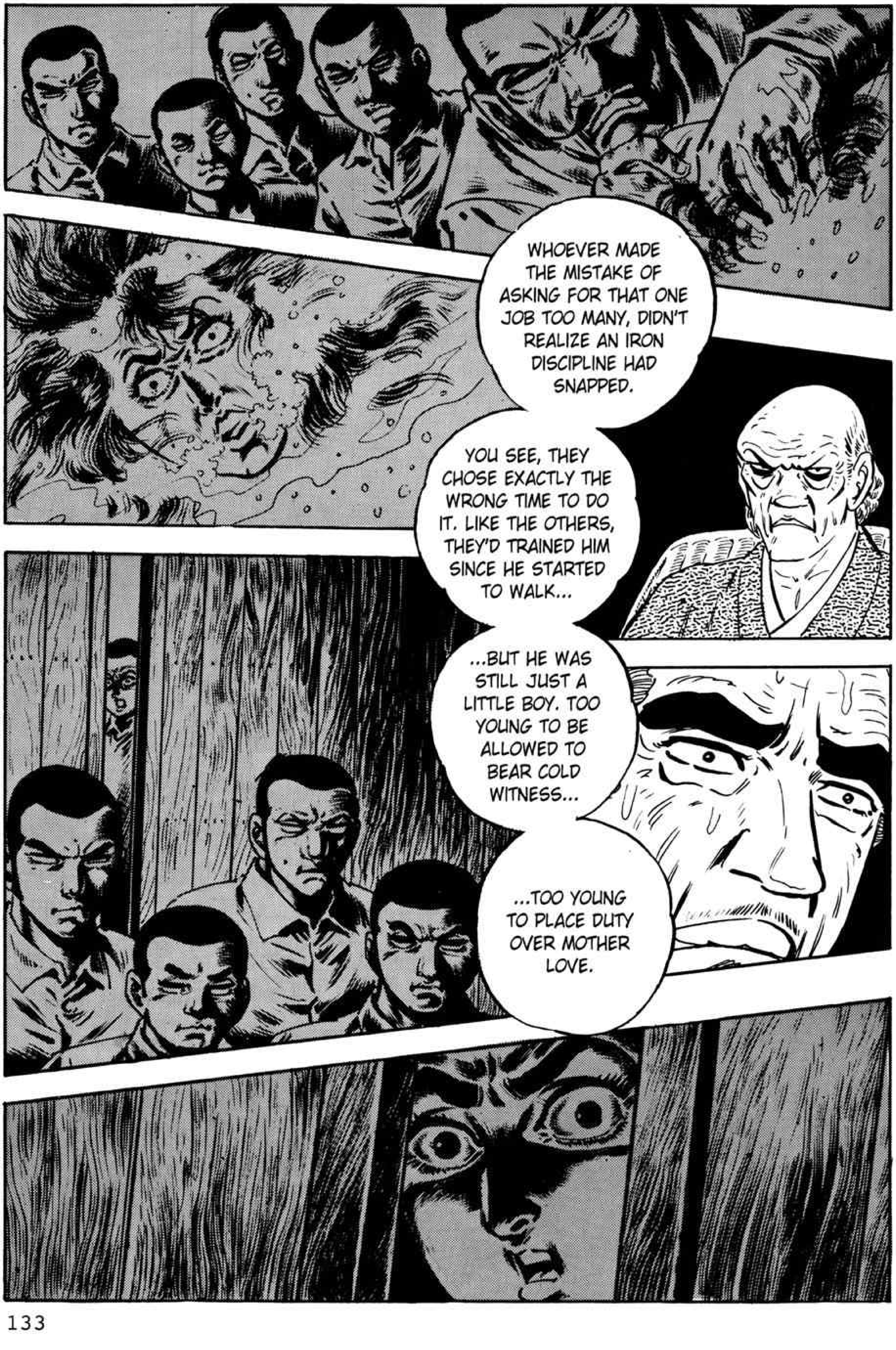
PART 17 DEDUCTION

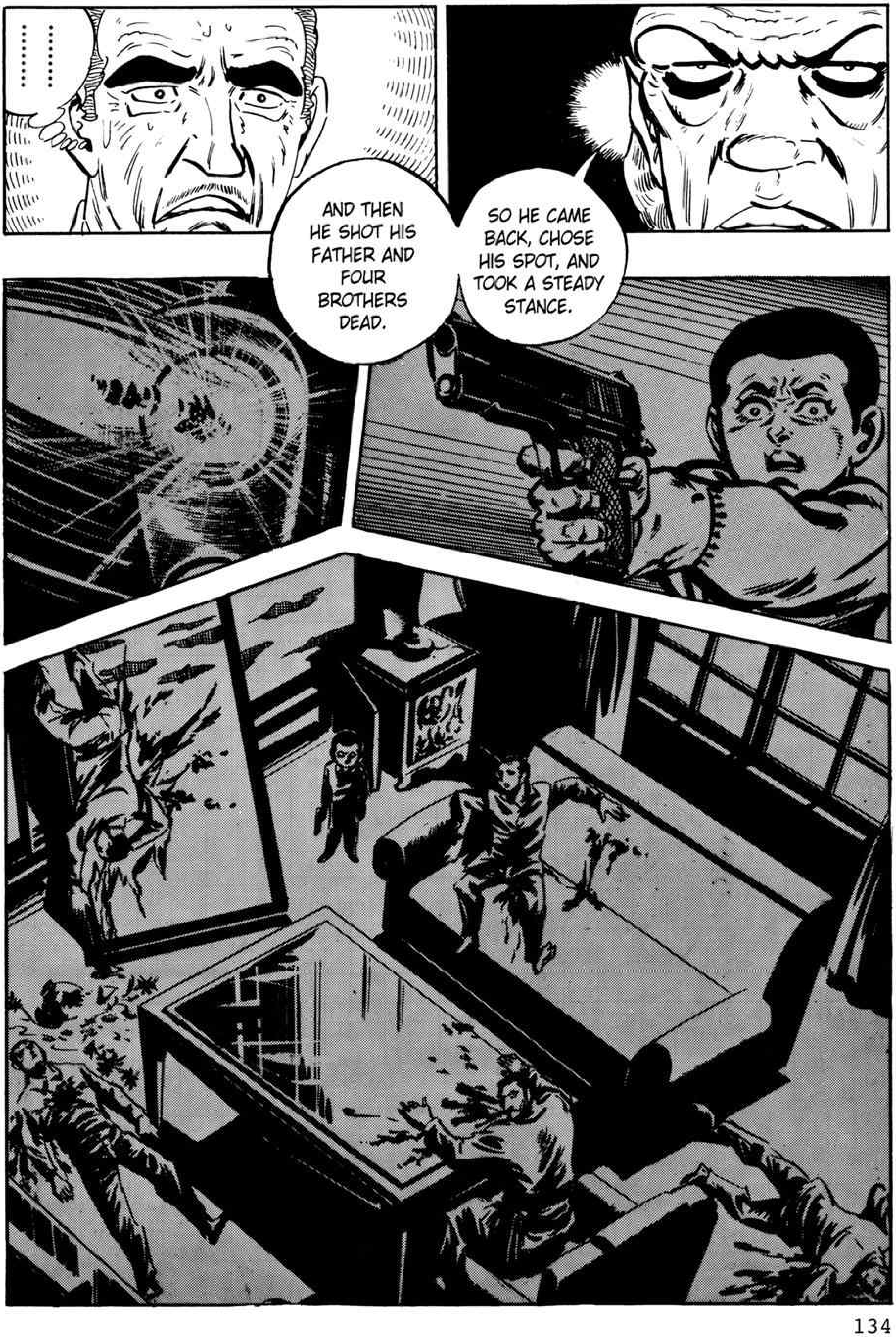

SAY... HOW LONG WERE YOU PLANNING ON STANDING THERE?
SIT DOWN. TAKE A LOAD OFF.
....

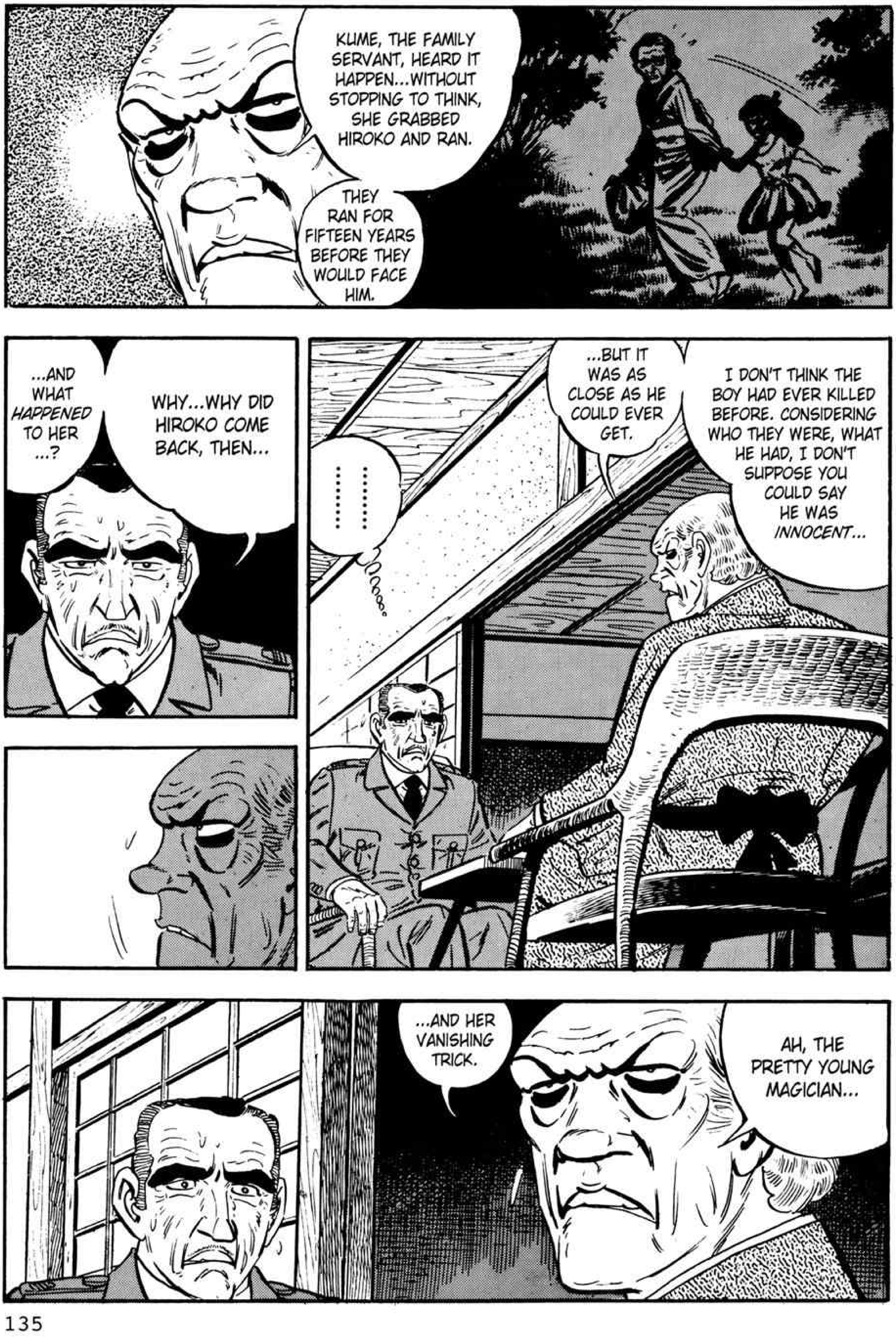

GOTO, DO YOU REMEMBER THIS ARTICLE ...?
THIS...
THE SERIZAWA FAMILY WAS SICK TO DEATH LONG BEFORE THE MURDERS. THEY WERE SICK WITH WHO THEY WERE... AND WHAT THEY'D DONE.
CENTURIES AGO, WHAT THEY DID WAS MORE RESPECTABLE.
A LONG LINEAGE, TRAINED IN SECRET WAYS...
...LOYAL TO THIS COUNTRY'S MASTERS... WHETHER THEY WORE ROBES... SUITS...OR UNIFORMS. A FAMILY OF ASSASSINS ...
...AN ATAVISM.
WHAT ?!
THEY SHOULD HAVE DIED OUT LONG AGO. BUT THE WAR GAVE THEM ONE LAST BLOODY FESTIVAL IN WHICH TO PLAY...
...IT DROWNED THEM ALL, GOTO.


THIS...
...THIS IS INSANE...
THE ARTICLE REPORTED ON A FAILED ASSASSINATION. IT WAS 1946, A YEAR AFTER THE SURRENDER...
SOMEONE TRIED TO RECALL THE SERIZAWAS TO DUTY.
THIS JOB REQUIRED A WOMAN. I SAID FAMILY--THE MOTHER WAS A KILLER, TOO.
BUT THE MOTHER FAILED... AND THAT WOULD BE THE END OF THE SERIZAWA LINE.


I...
I...DON'T UNDERSTAND...
......
THE FATHER MURDERED THEIR MOTHER... WHY...?!
SHE FAILED. AND THEY WERE CRAZY.
......
THEY OVERUSED THE SERIZAWAS DURING THE WAR. SO MANY ENEMIES TO BE KILLED, BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD.

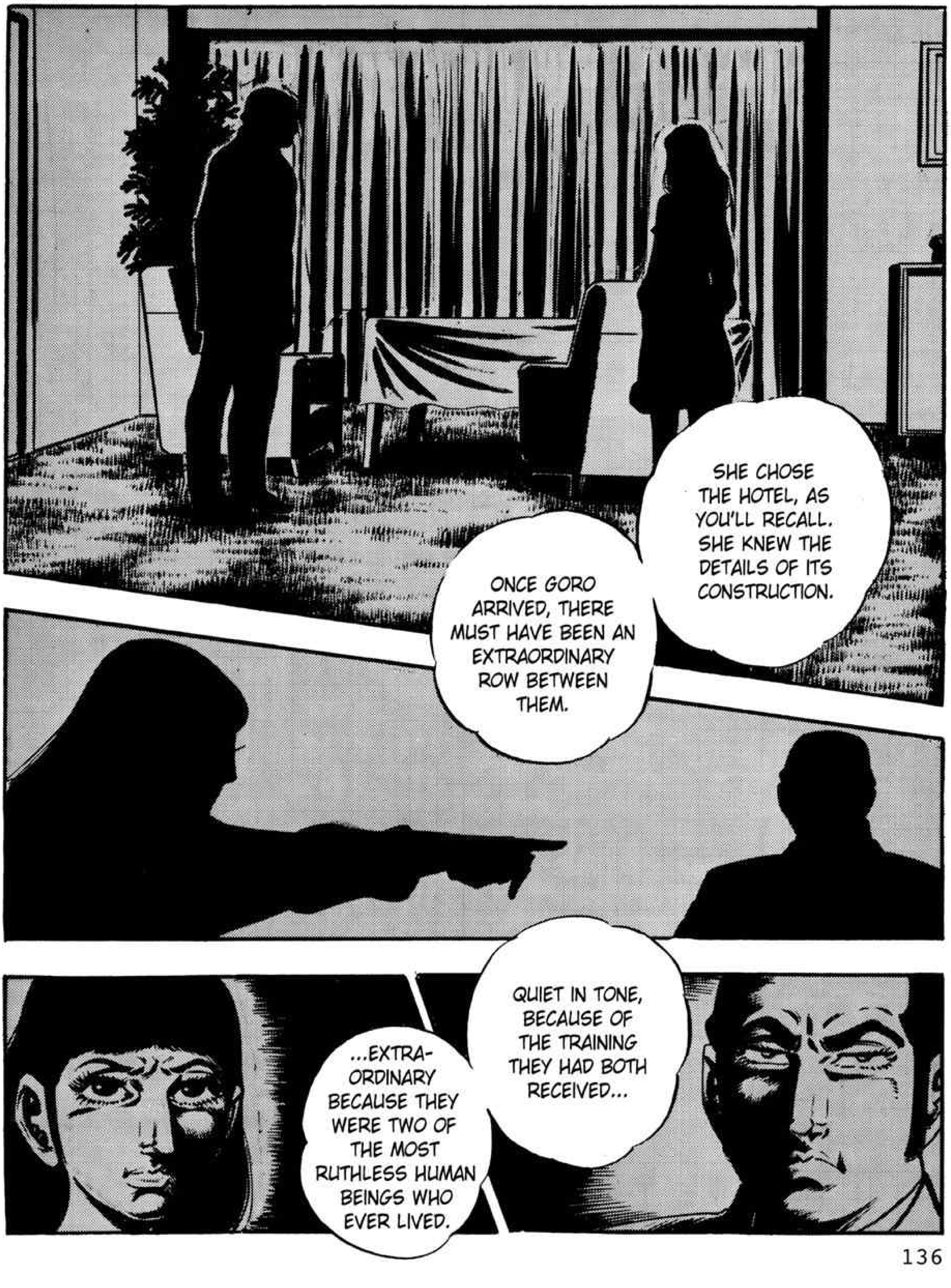

WHOEVER MADE THE MISTAKE OF ASKING FOR THAT ONE JOB TOO MANY, DIDN'T REALIZE AN IRON DISCIPLINE HAD SNAPPED.
YOU SEE, THEY CHOSE EXACTLY THE WRONG TIME TO DO IT. LIKE THE OTHERS, THEY'D TRAINED HIM SINCE HE STARTED TO WALK...
...BUT HE WAS STILL JUST A LITTLE BOY. TOO YOUNG TO BE ALLOWED TO BEAR COLD WITNESS...
...TOO YOUNG TO PLACE DUTY OVER MOTHER LOVE.

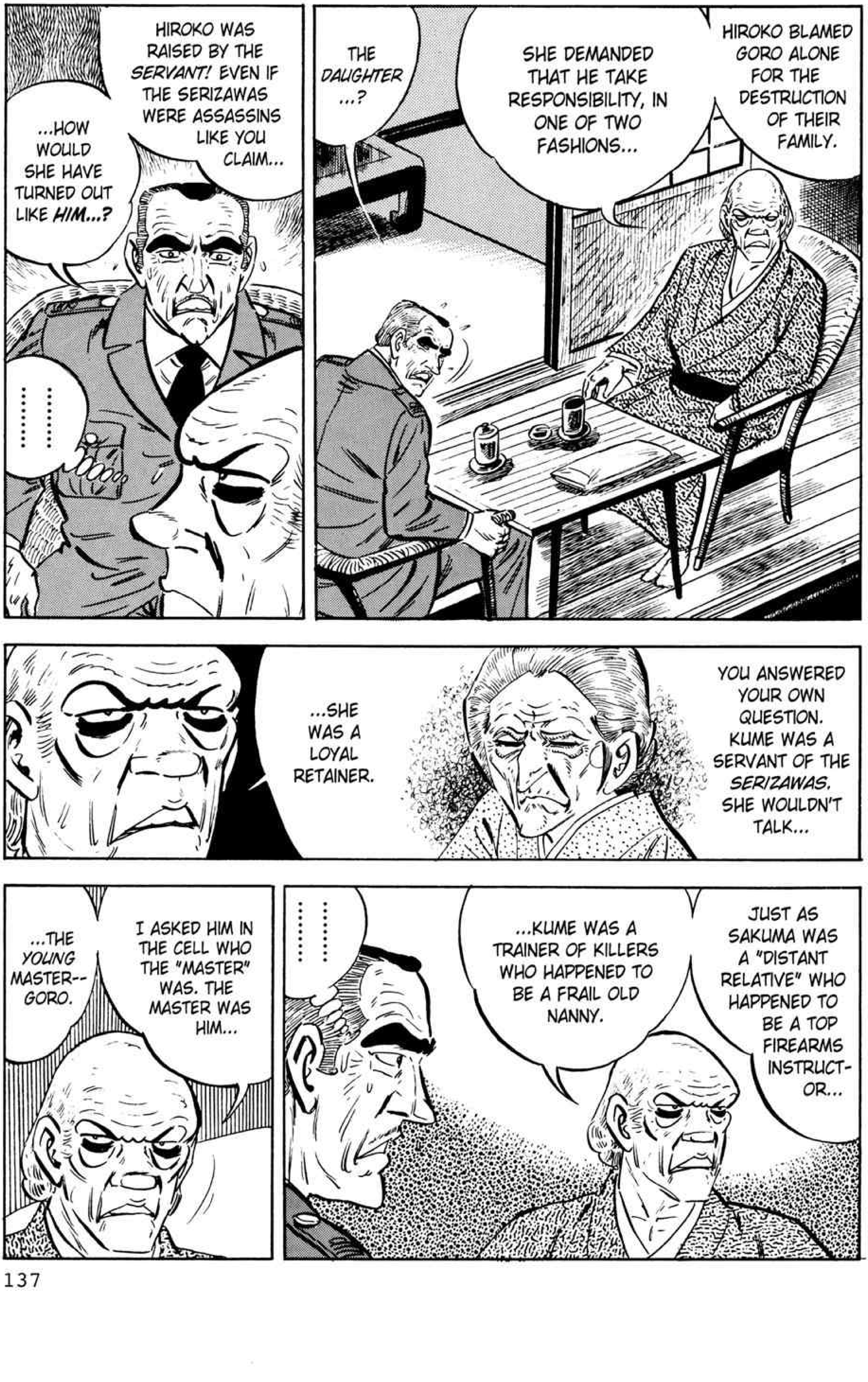

SO HE CAME BACK, CHOSE HIS SPOT, AND TOOK A STEADY STANCE.
AND THEN HE SHOT HIS FATHER AND FOUR BROTHERS DEAD.
……

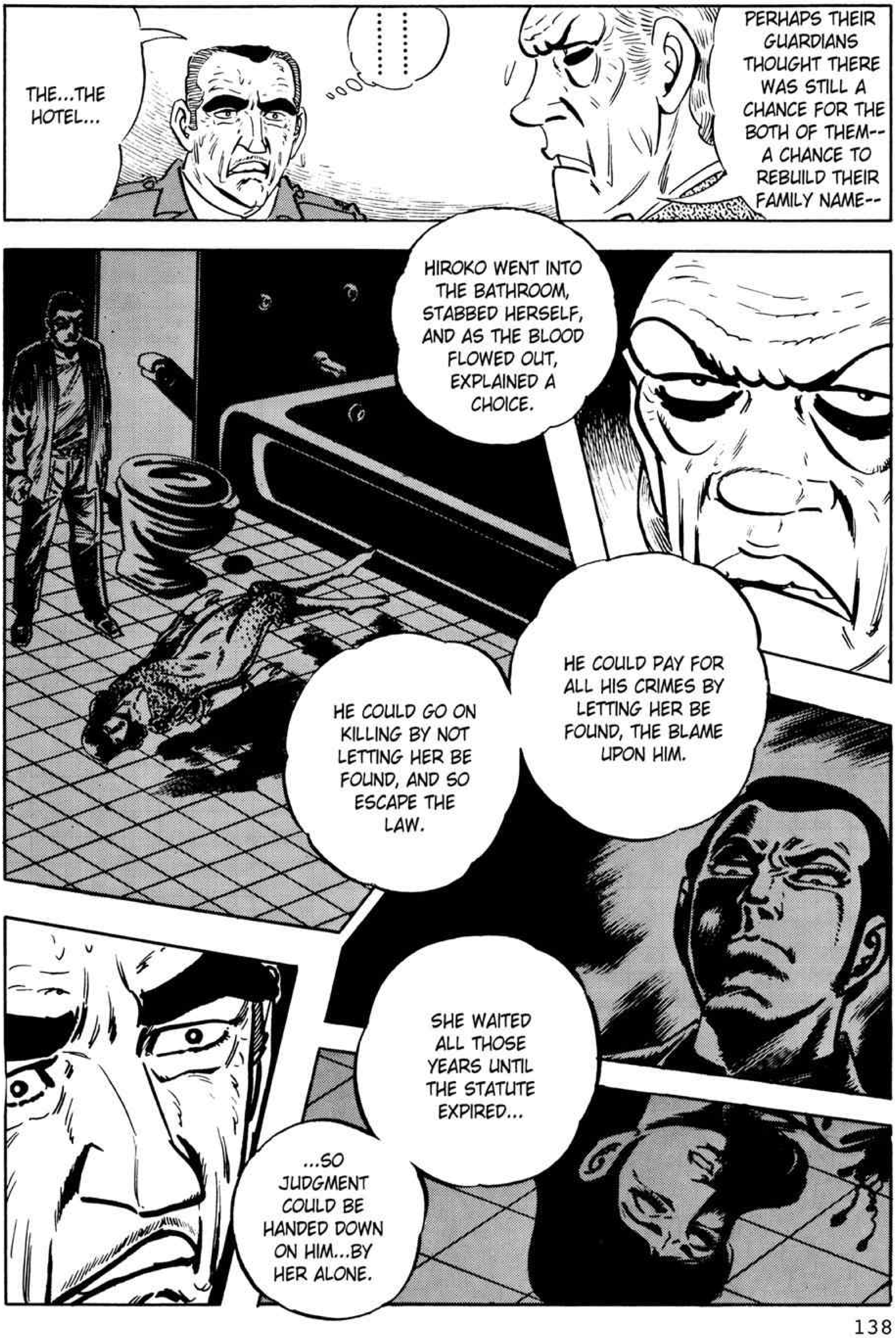

KUME, THE FAMILY SERVANT, HEARD IT HAPPEN...WITHOUT STOPPING TO THINK, SHE GRABBED HIROKO AND RAN.
THEY RAN FOR FIFTEEN YEARS BEFORE THEY WOULD FACE HIM.
I DON'T THINK THE BOY HAD EVER KILLED BEFORE. CONSIDERING WHO THEY WERE, WHAT HE HAD, I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY HE WAS *INNOCENT*...
...BUT IT WAS AS CLOSE AS HE COULD EVER GET.
......
WHY...WHY DID HIROKO COME BACK, THEN...
...AND WHAT *HAPPENED* TO HER ...?
AH, THE PRETTY YOUNG MAGICIAN...
...AND HER VANISHING TRICK.

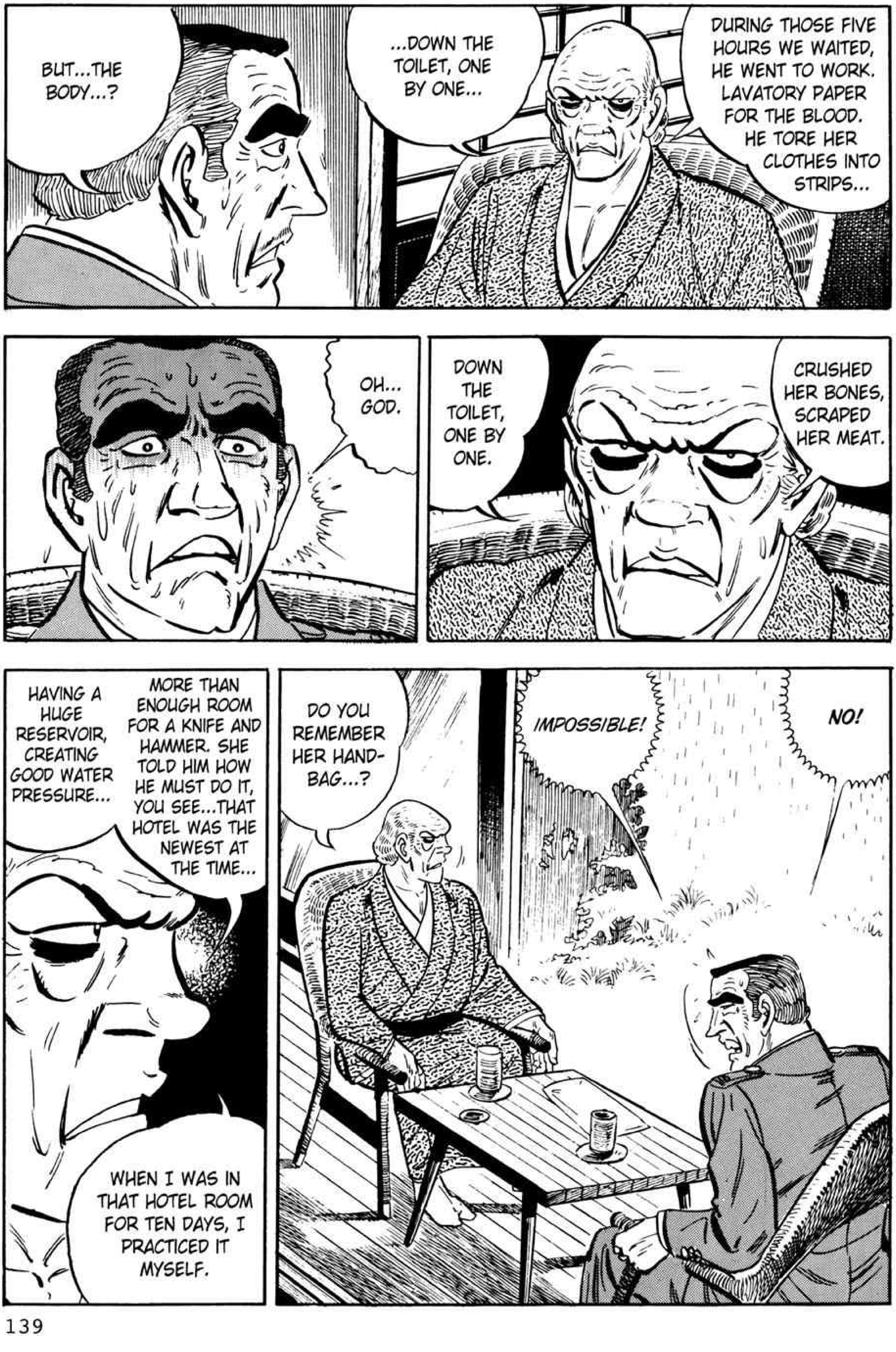
PART 18

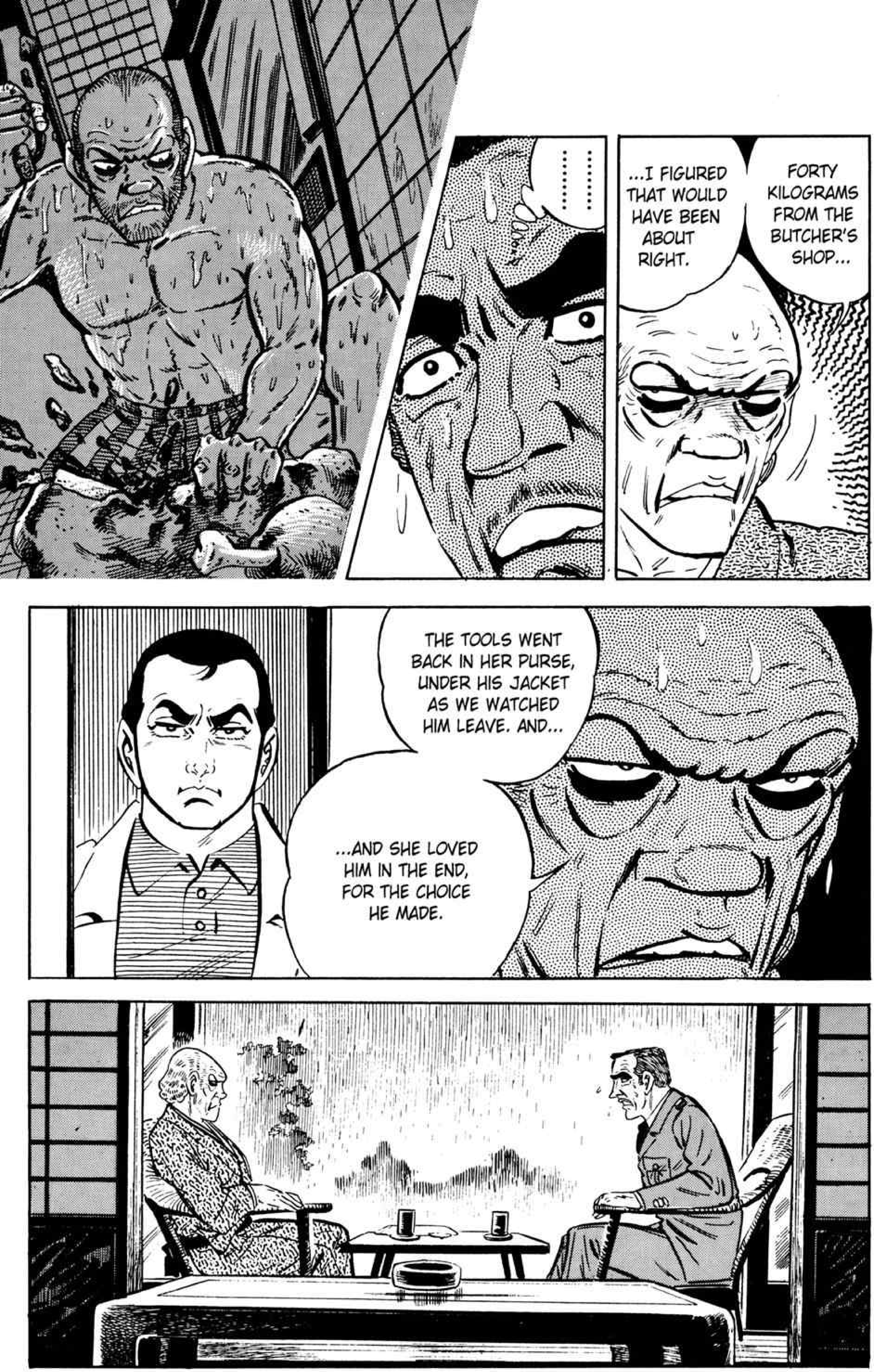
HIROKO


SHE CHOSE THE HOTEL, AS YOU'LL RECALL. SHE KNEW THE DETAILS OF ITS CONSTRUCTION.
ONCE GORO ARRIVED, THERE MUST HAVE BEEN AN EXTRAORDINARY ROW BETWEEN THEM.
...EXTRAORDINARY BECAUSE THEY WERE TWO OF THE MOST RUTHLESS HUMAN BEINGS WHO EVER LIVED.
QUIET IN TONE, BECAUSE OF THE TRAINING THEY HAD BOTH RECEIVED...

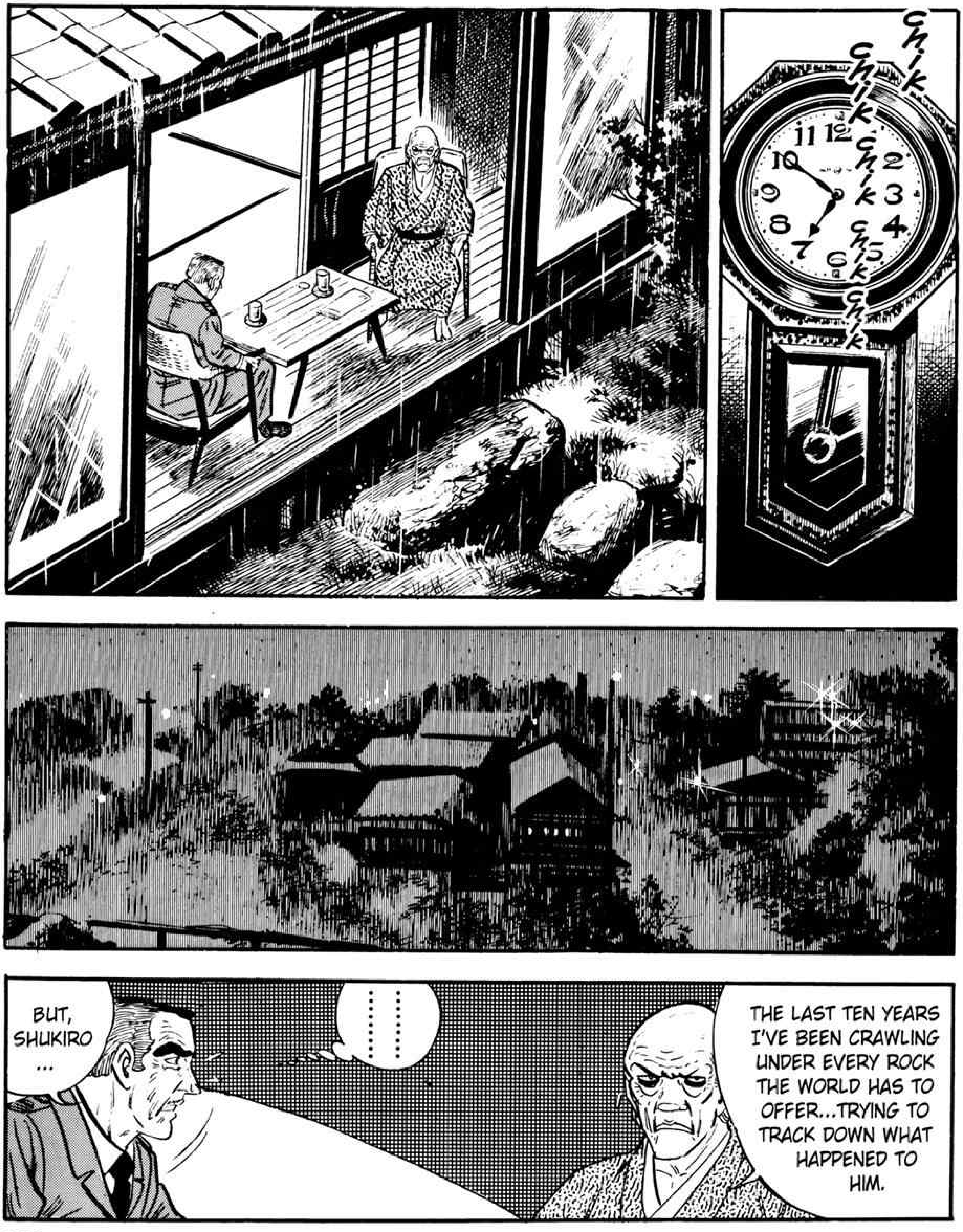

HIROKO BLAMED GORO ALONE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR FAMILY.
SHE DEMANDED THAT HE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY, IN ONE OF TWO FASHIONS...
THE *DAUGHTER* ...?
HIROKO WAS RAISED BY THE *SERVANT!* EVEN IF THE SERIZAWAS WERE ASSASSINS LIKE YOU CLAIM...
...HOW WOULD SHE HAVE TURNED OUT LIKE ***HIM...?***
......
YOU ANSWERED YOUR OWN QUESTION. KUME WAS A SERVANT OF THE *SERIZAWAS.* SHE WOULDN'T TALK...
...SHE WAS A LOYAL RETAINER.
JUST AS SAKUMA WAS A "DISTANT RELATIVE" WHO HAPPENED TO BE A TOP FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR...
...KUME WAS A TRAINER OF KILLERS WHO HAPPENED TO BE A FRAIL OLD NANNY.
......
I ASKED HIM IN THE CELL WHO THE "MASTER" WAS. THE MASTER WAS HIM...
...THE *YOUNG* MASTER--GORO.

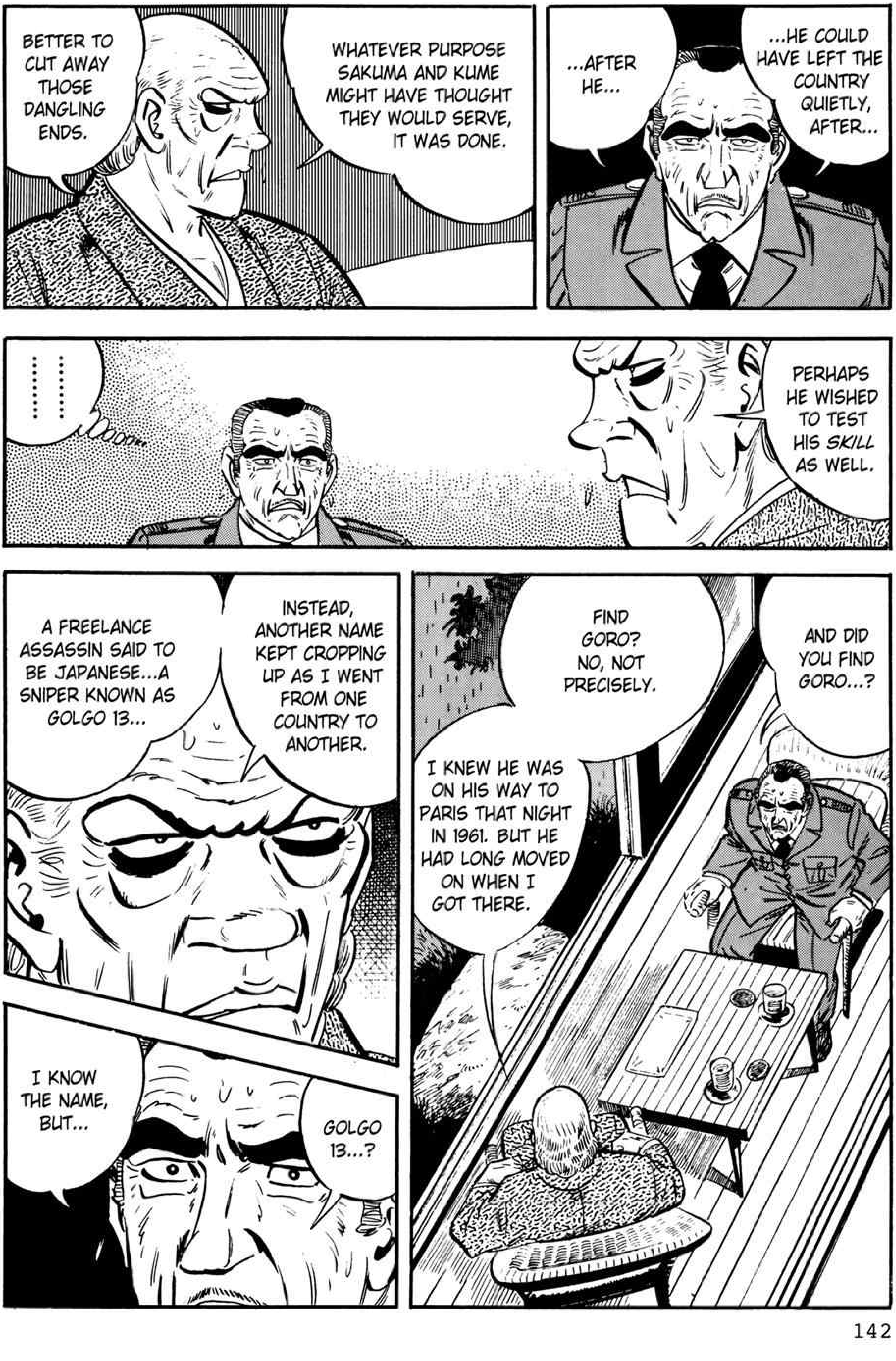

PERHAPS THEIR GUARDIANS THOUGHT THERE WAS STILL A CHANCE FOR THE BOTH OF THEM-- A CHANCE TO REBUILD THEIR FAMILY NAME--
......
THE...THE HOTEL...
HIROKO WENT INTO THE BATHROOM, STABBED HERSELF, AND AS THE BLOOD FLOWED OUT, EXPLAINED A CHOICE.
HE COULD PAY FOR ALL HIS CRIMES BY LETTING HER BE FOUND, THE BLAME UPON HIM.
HE COULD GO ON KILLING BY NOT LETTING HER BE FOUND, AND SO ESCAPE THE LAW.
SHE WAITED ALL THOSE YEARS UNTIL THE STATUTE EXPIRED...
...SO JUDGMENT COULD BE HANDED DOWN ON HIM...BY HER ALONE.

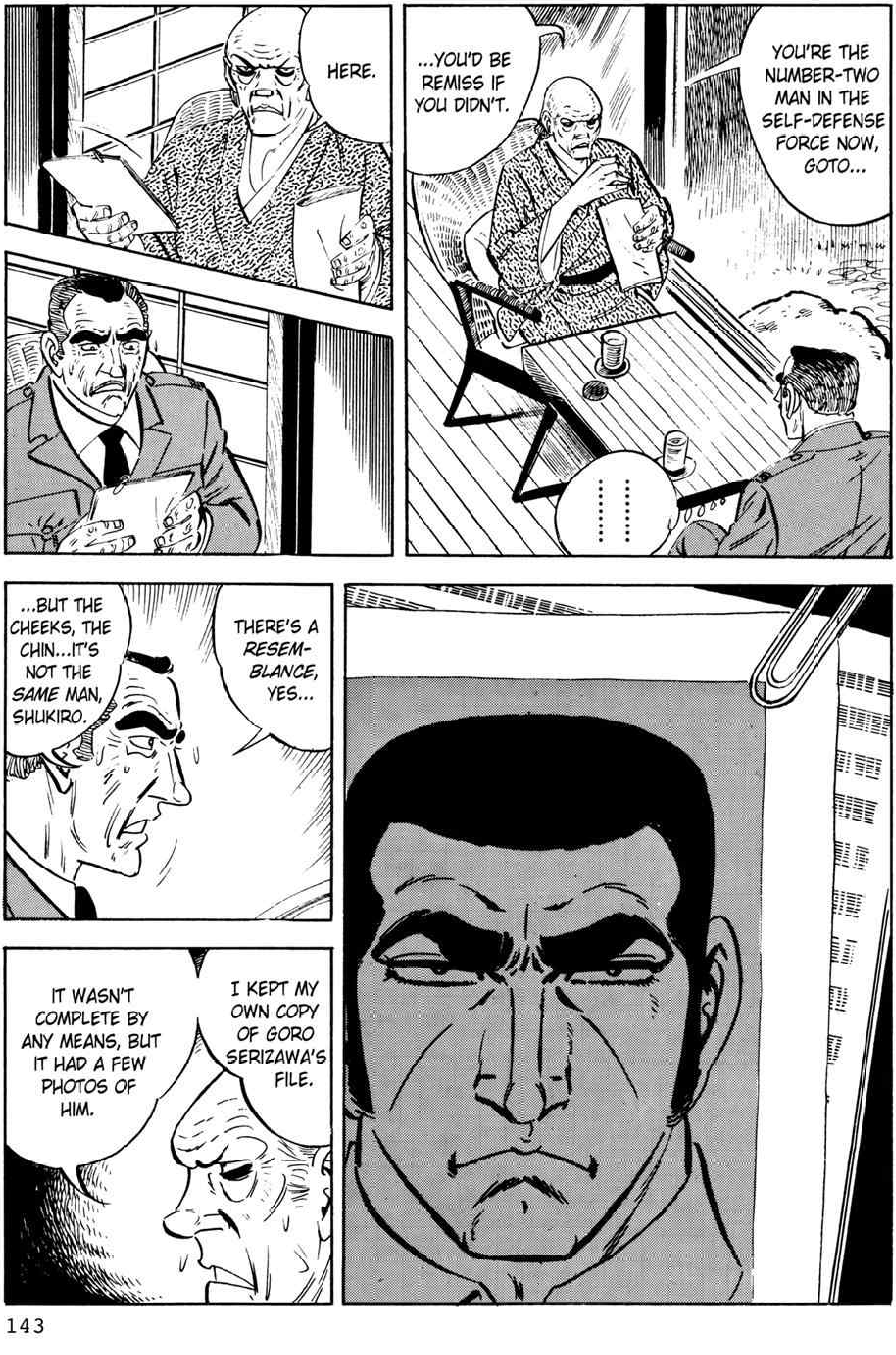

DURING THOSE FIVE HOURS WE WAITED, HE WENT TO WORK. LAVATORY PAPER FOR THE BLOOD. HE TORE HER CLOTHES INTO STRIPS...
...DOWN THE TOILET, ONE BY ONE...
BUT...THE BODY...?
CRUSHED HER BONES, SCRAPED HER MEAT.
DOWN THE TOILET, ONE BY ONE.
OH... GOD.
NO!
IMPOSSIBLE!
DO YOU REMEMBER HER HAND-BAG...?
MORE THAN ENOUGH ROOM FOR A KNIFE AND HAMMER. SHE TOLD HIM HOW HE MUST DO IT, YOU SEE...THAT HOTEL WAS THE NEWEST AT THE TIME...
HAVING A HUGE RESERVOIR, CREATING GOOD WATER PRESSURE...
WHEN I WAS IN THAT HOTEL ROOM FOR TEN DAYS, I PRACTICED IT MYSELF.

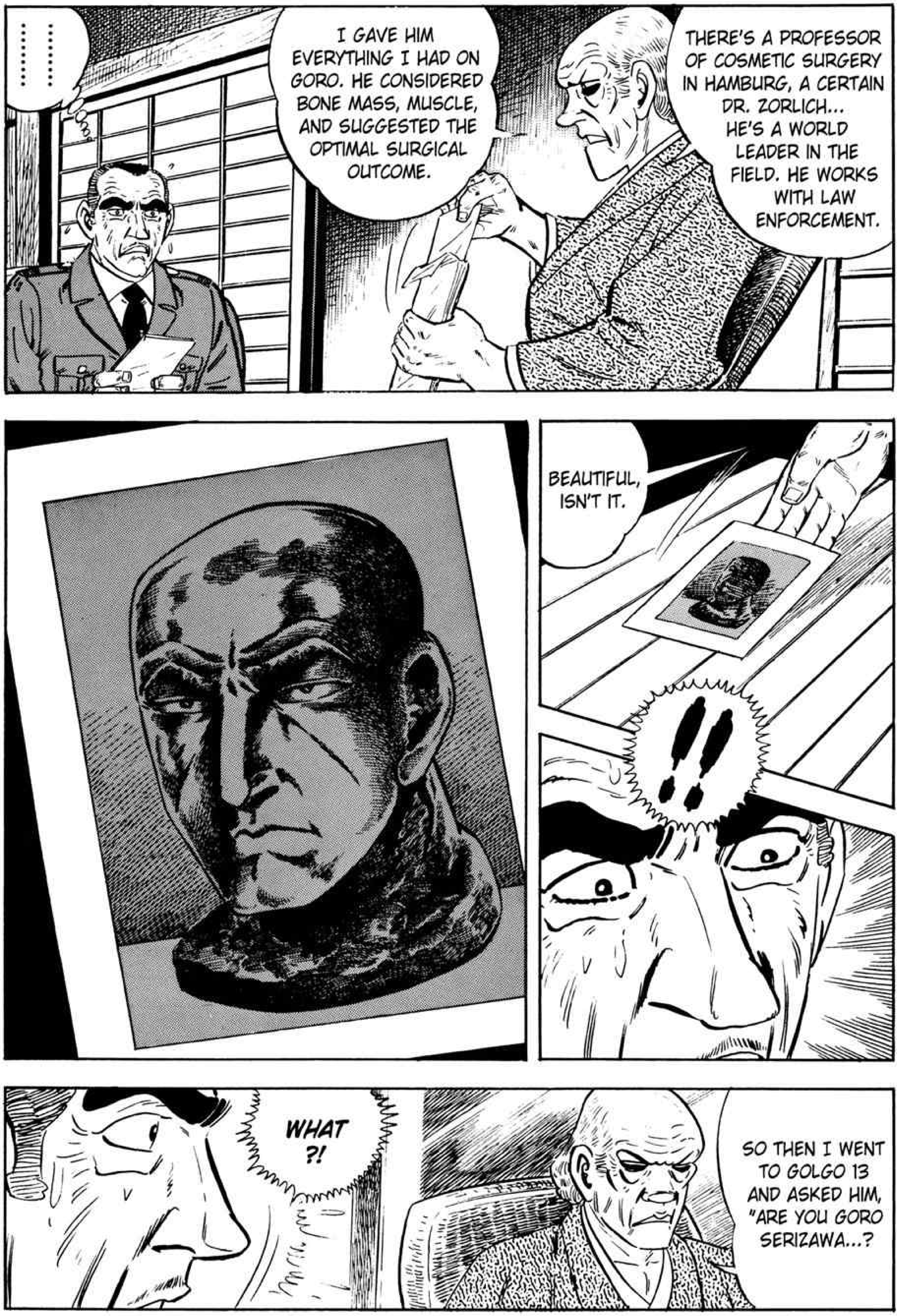

FORTY KILOGRAMS FROM THE BUTCHER'S SHOP...
...I FIGURED THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ABOUT RIGHT.
……
THE TOOLS WENT BACK IN HER PURSE, UNDER HIS JACKET AS WE WATCHED HIM LEAVE. AND...
...AND SHE LOVED HIM IN THE END, FOR THE CHOICE HE MADE.

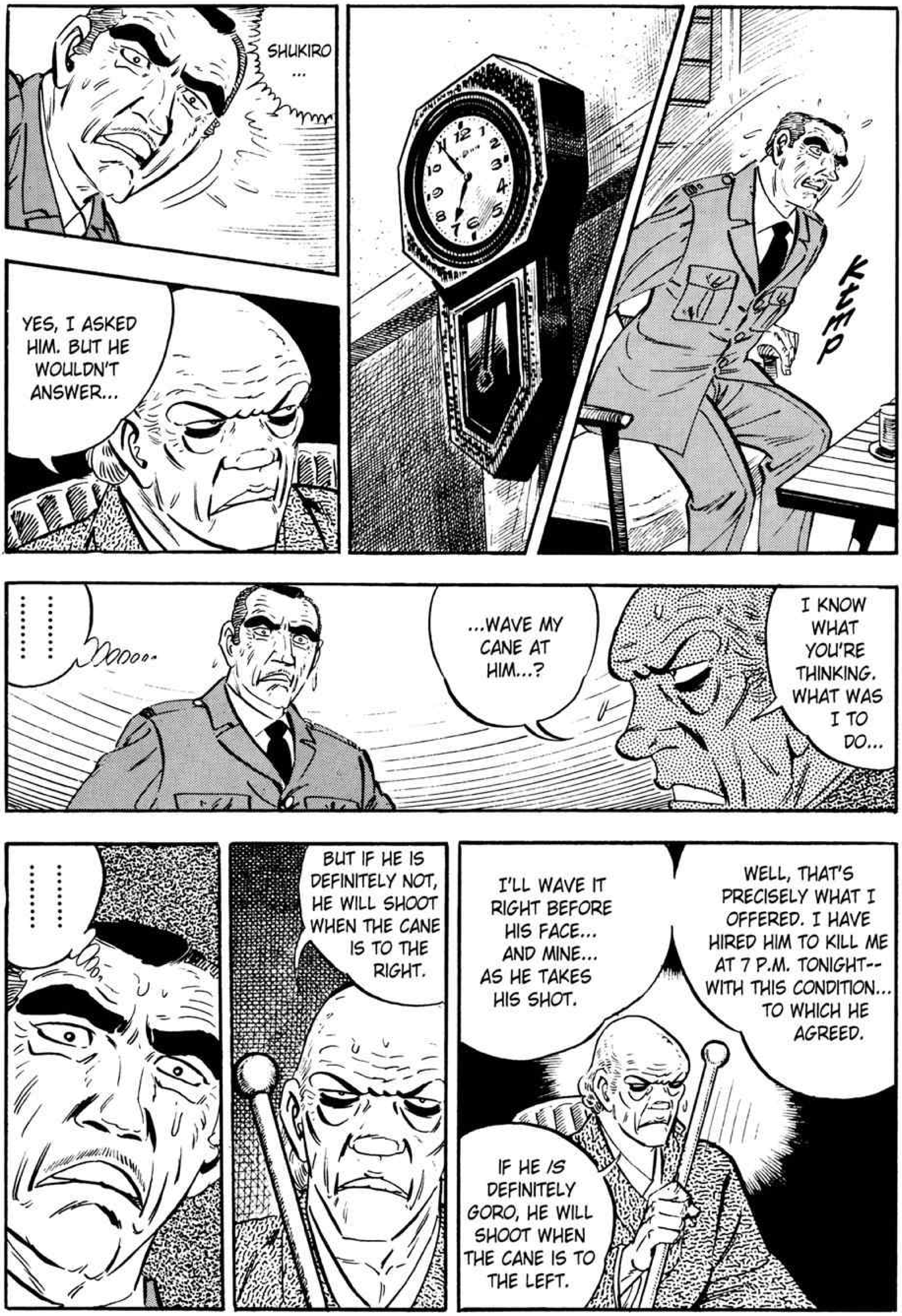
PART 19 GORO


CHIK CHIK CHIK CHIK CHIK CHIK
THE LAST TEN YEARS I'VE BEEN CRAWLING UNDER EVERY ROCK THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER...TRYING TO TRACK DOWN WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.
......
BUT, SHUKIRO ...

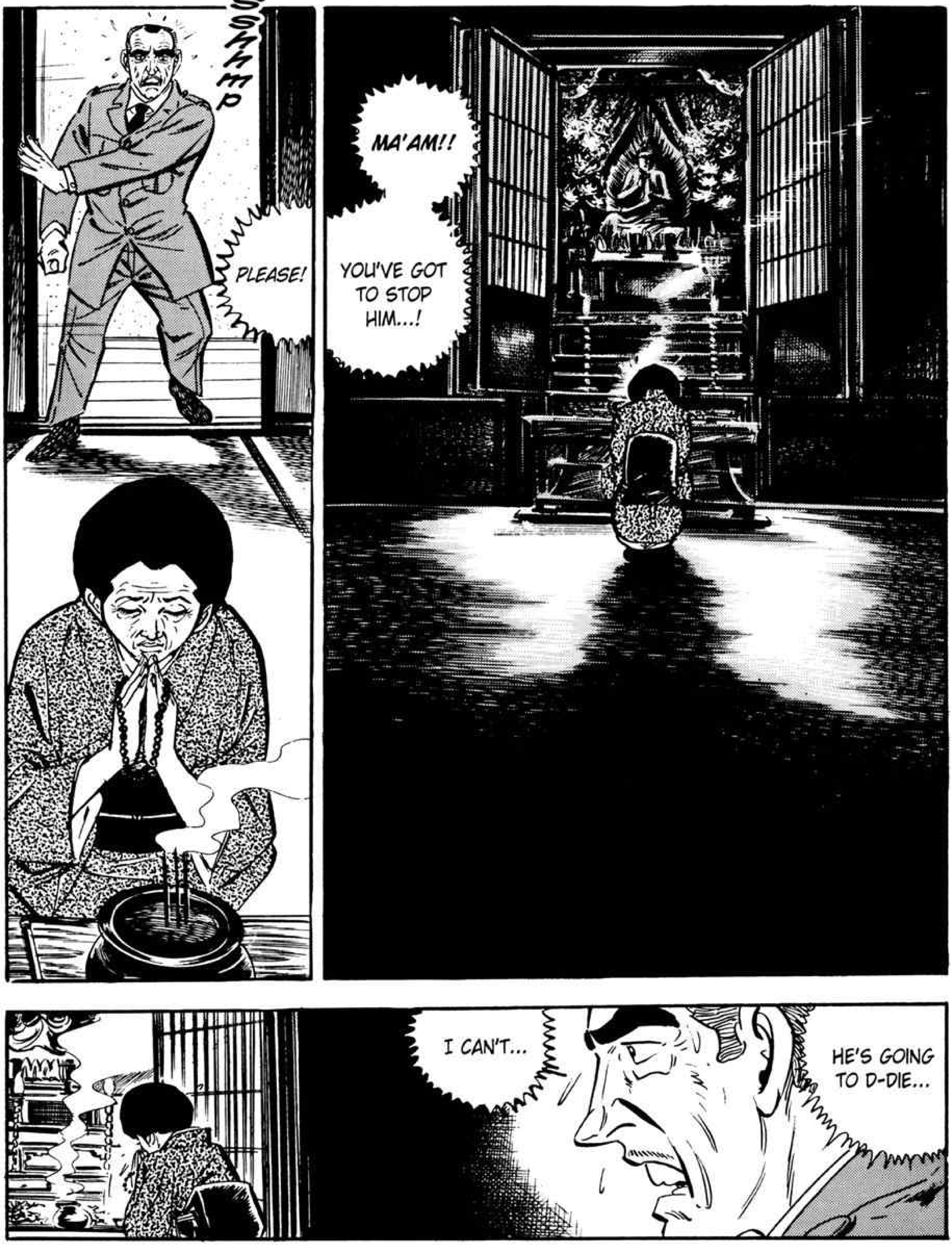

...HE COULD HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY QUIETLY, AFTER...
...AFTER HE...
WHATEVER PURPOSE SAKUMA AND KUME MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT THEY WOULD SERVE, IT WAS DONE.
BETTER TO CUT AWAY THOSE DANGLING ENDS.
PERHAPS HE WISHED TO TEST HIS *SKILL* AS WELL.
……
AND DID YOU FIND GORO...?
FIND GORO? NO, NOT PRECISELY.
I KNEW HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO PARIS THAT NIGHT IN 1961. BUT HE HAD LONG MOVED ON WHEN I GOT THERE.
INSTEAD, ANOTHER NAME KEPT CROPPING UP AS I WENT FROM ONE COUNTRY TO ANOTHER.
A FREELANCE ASSASSIN SAID TO BE JAPANESE...A SNIPER KNOWN AS GOLGO 13...
GOLGO 13...?
I KNOW THE NAME, BUT...

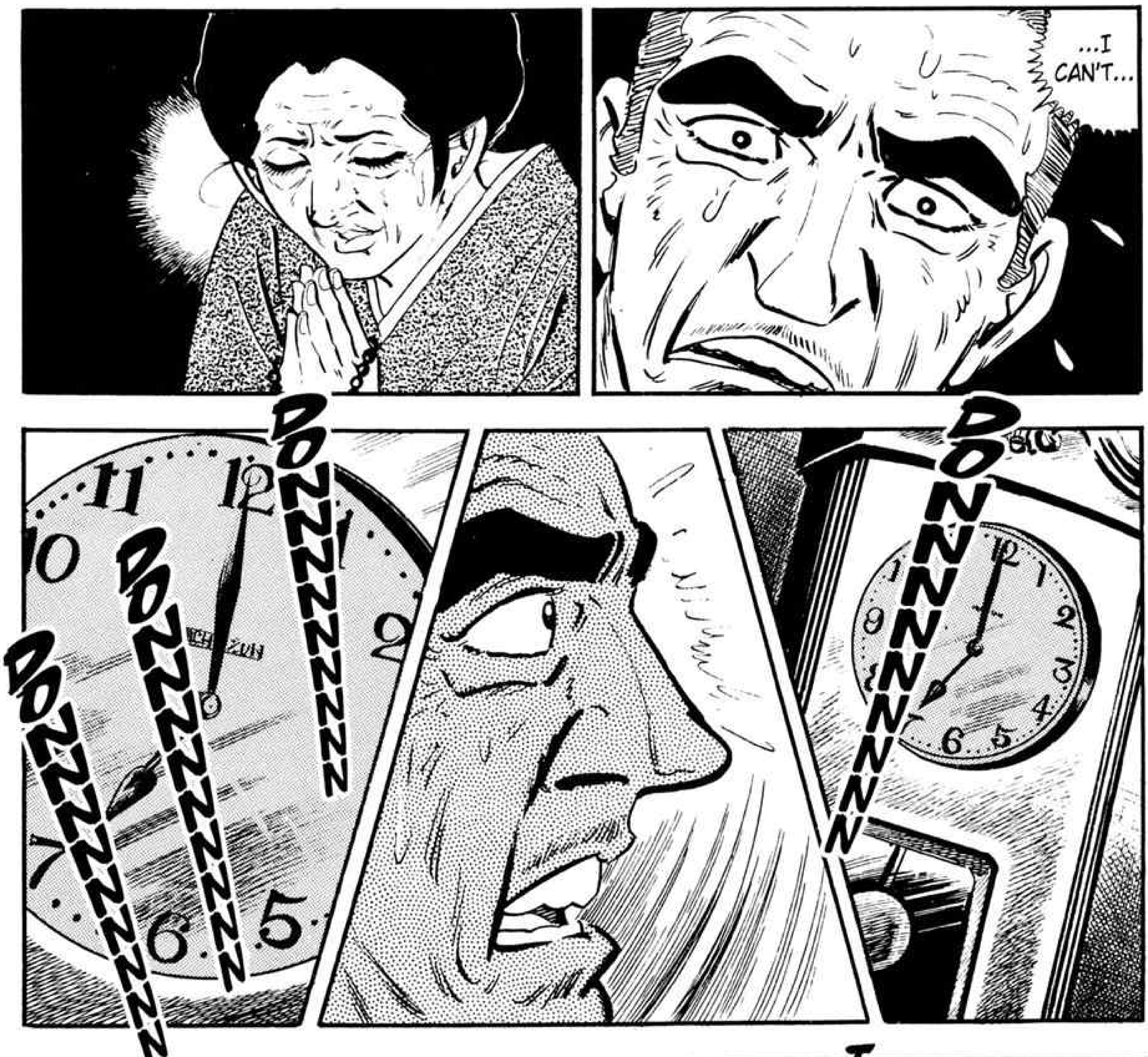

YOU'RE THE NUMBER-TWO MAN IN THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE NOW, GOTO...
...YOU'D BE REMISS IF YOU DIDN'T.
......
HERE.
THERE'S A *RESEMBLANCE*, YES...
...BUT THE CHEEKS, THE CHIN...IT'S NOT THE *SAME* MAN, SHUKIRO.
I KEPT MY OWN COPY OF GORO SERIZAWA'S FILE.
IT WASN'T COMPLETE BY ANY MEANS, BUT IT HAD A FEW PHOTOS OF HIM.

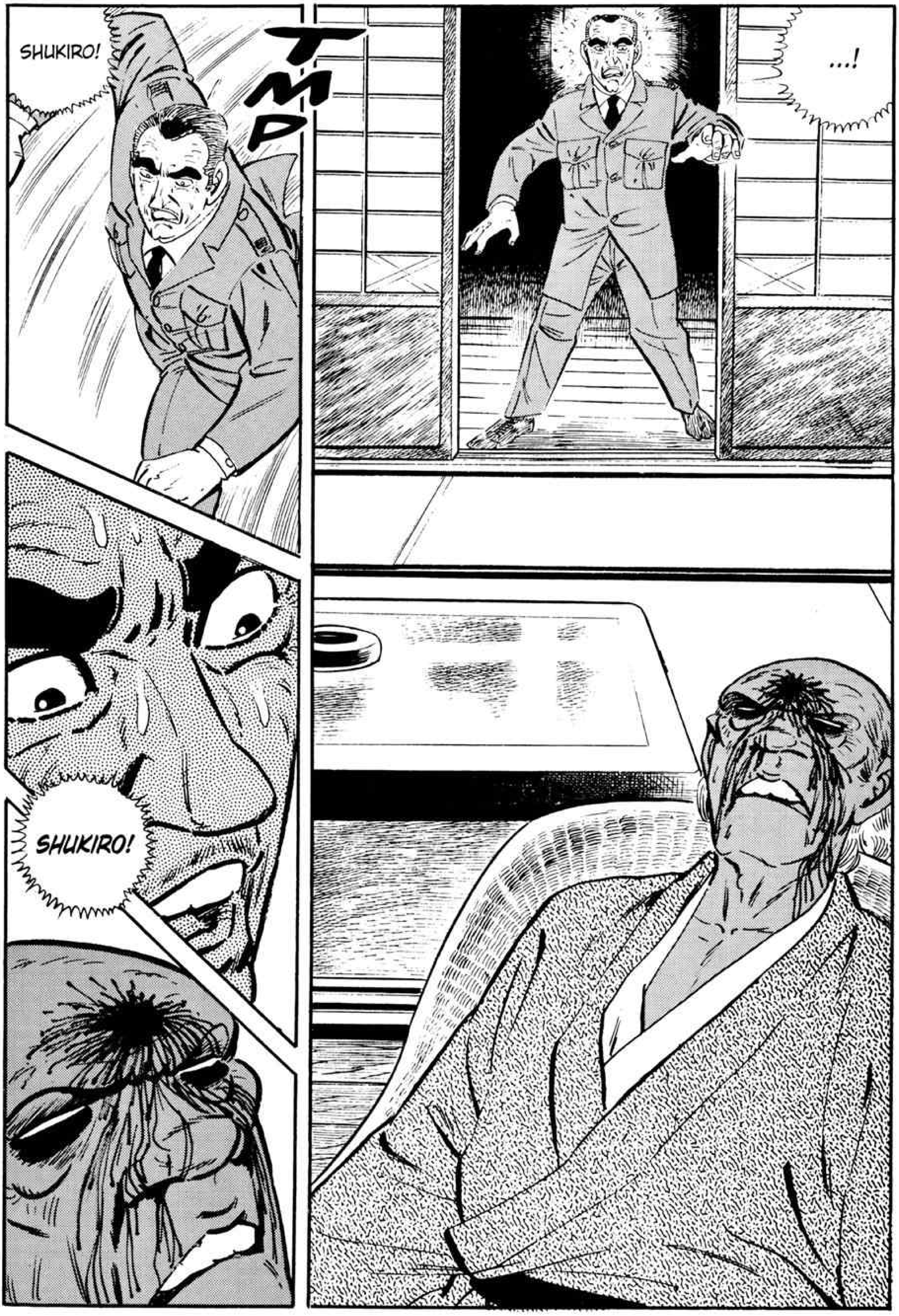

THERE'S A PROFESSOR OF COSMETIC SURGERY IN HAMBURG, A CERTAIN DR. ZORLICH... HE'S A WORLD LEADER IN THE FIELD. HE WORKS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT.
I GAVE HIM EVERYTHING I HAD ON GORO. HE CONSIDERED BONE MASS, MUSCLE, AND SUGGESTED THE OPTIMAL SURGICAL OUTCOME.
......
BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT.
!!
WHAT ?!
SO THEN I WENT TO GOLGO 13 AND ASKED HIM, "ARE YOU GORO SERIZAWA...?

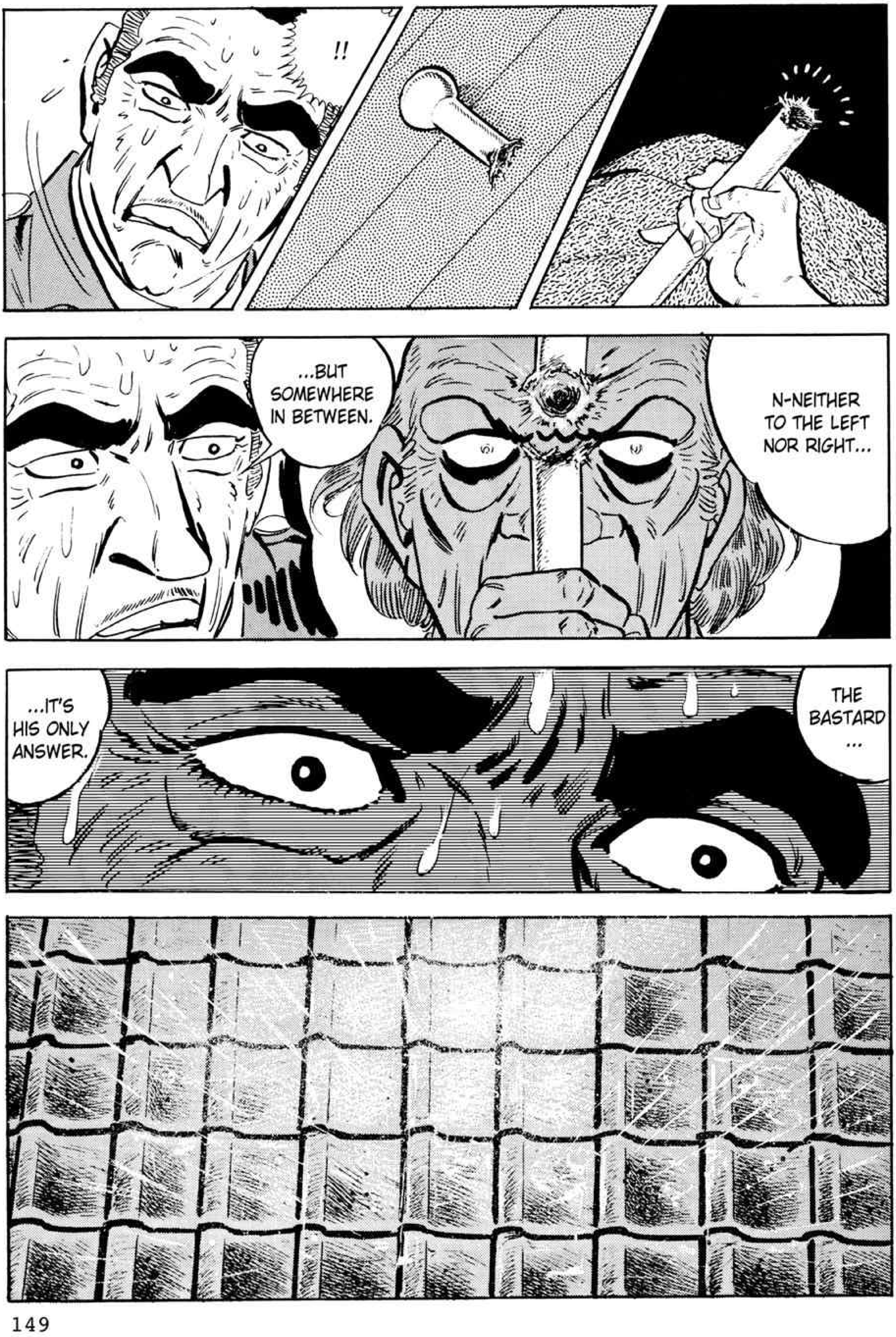

KUMP
SHUKIRO ...
YES, I ASKED HIM. BUT HE WOULDN'T ANSWER...
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. WHAT WAS I TO DO...
...WAVE MY CANE AT HIM...?
......
......
WELL, THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT I OFFERED. I HAVE HIRED HIM TO KILL ME AT 7 P.M. TONIGHT-- WITH THIS CONDITION... TO WHICH HE AGREED.
I'LL WAVE IT RIGHT BEFORE HIS FACE... AND MINE... AS HE TAKES HIS SHOT.
IF HE *IS* DEFINITELY GORO, HE WILL SHOOT WHEN THE CANE IS TO THE LEFT.
BUT IF HE IS DEFINITELY NOT, HE WILL SHOOT WHEN THE CANE IS TO THE RIGHT.
......
......

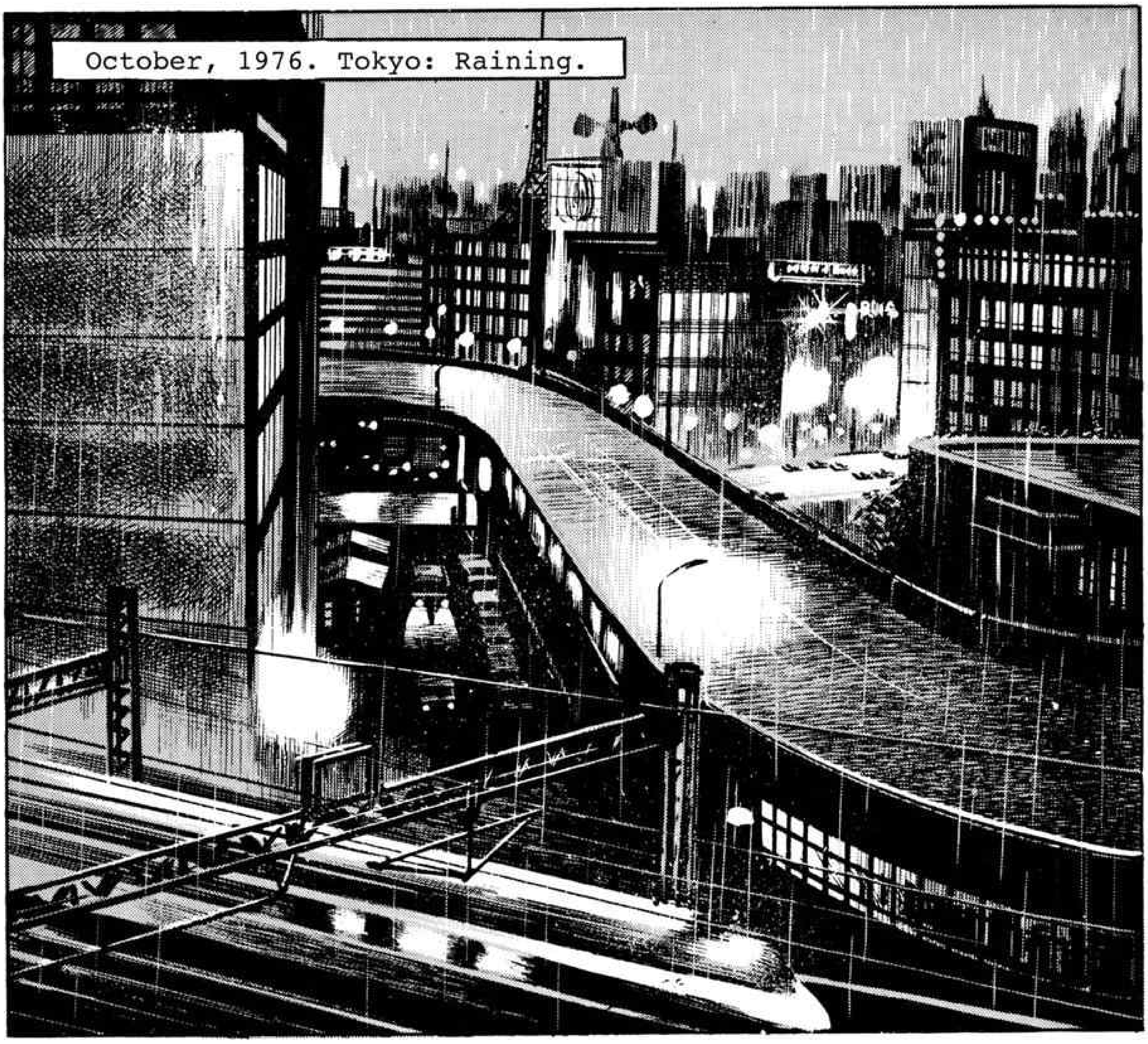
PART 20 GOLGO 13


SSHHMP
MA'AM!!
PLEASE!
YOU'VE GOT TO STOP HIM...!
I CAN'T...
HE'S GOING TO D-DIE...


...I CAN'T...
DONNNNNNNNN
DONNNNNNNNN
DONNNNNNNNN
DONNNNNNNNN
TMP
SHUKIRO !!
TMP
TMP


SHUKIRO!
TMP
...!
SHUKIRO!


!!
N-NEITHER TO THE LEFT NOR RIGHT...
...BUT SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN.
THE BASTARD ...
...IT'S HIS ONLY ANSWER.


October, 1976. Tokyo: Raining.

END

The Serizawa Family Murders
Golgo 13 Story #100, November 1975

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